THE HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIANISM IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

1802 - 1953

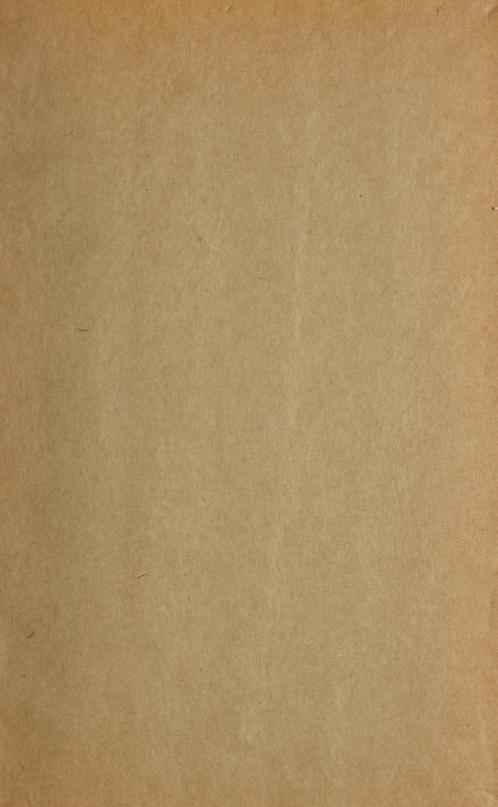


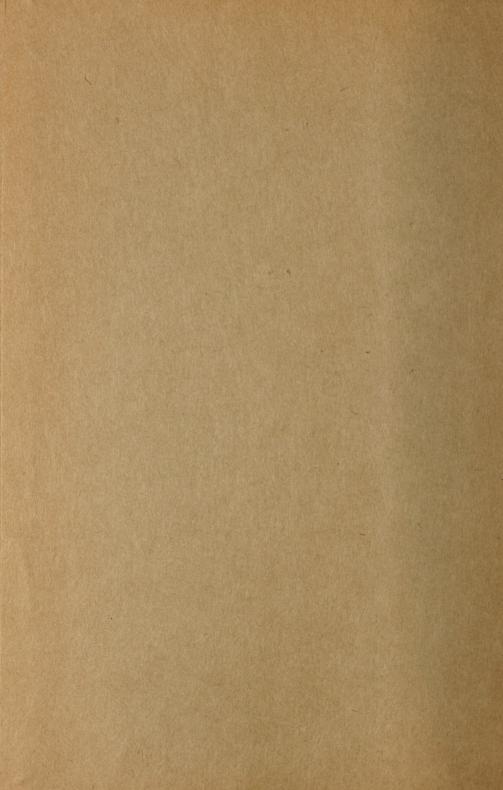
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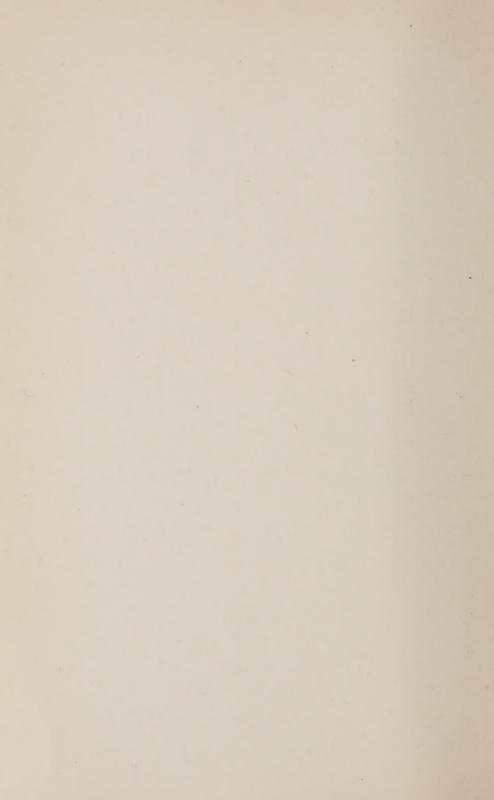


The HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIANISM In Champaign County

1802 - 1953



1953 / MALCOLM D. HOOKER





As an humble contribution to their sesqui-centennial year, I am happy to present to the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Ohio, this booklet devoted to their glorious past.

Malcolm D. Hooker

Malwhm D. Hooker

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APPRECIATION

It has been my intention in the pages that follow to record facts concerning Presbyterianism in this county that seem to me might be of interest to the reader of today and also of some value, in the future, to any student who might desire to do a more complete job in this field. Of course there are many other interesting and valuable pieces of information in the old records of the Urbana and Buck Creek Churches. Some of them which I have omitted may be even more significant than the ones I have used.

It may be that some persons whose names have been omitted have contributed more to the life of the church than those whose names appear. The writer makes no claim of perfection. Each time I have gone over the material herein I have corrected some statements and rewritten others. No doubt I could still find mistakes if I had the time to reread it again and again. It has not been my purpose to give recognition even for outstanding service; rather I have tried, as stated earlier, to record facts which seemed to me, as I read them, significant to the total life of the church in this county through the past 150 years.

I have drawn from many sources for the material in these pages. For the most part I have acknowledged the sources in the body of the manuscript. A great many other people have given me bits of information. Although not all such information has been used it has contributed to a broader understanding of the story I have tried to write, and has been greatly appreciated.

I am especially indebted to Mr. Robert S. McConnell who is underwriting the cost of the publication of this booklet. Without his generosity it

would have been impossible.

For the most laborious part of this work, the typing and correcting of the manuscript, I am indebted to Mrs. Lawrence Detwiler. Others who have assisted in its typing and to whom I wish to express my appreciation are: Mrs. E. S. Crego, Mrs. Thomas Stith, Mrs. George Cahoon, Miss Cynthia Smith and Mrs. Hooker. Without the help of all these friends I could not have completed this task.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the Session and Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church for their understanding and patience with me as I have been engaged in this effort. No doubt some of my regular duties have been neglected but there has been no word of complaint by anyone. I deeply appreciate such kindness on the part of so many.

MDH



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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY PRESBYTERIANISM

The following presbyteries have been responsible for the establishment or supervision of churches in this county:

| Transylvania | 1790-1799 |
|---------------|-----------|
| Washington | 1799-1810 |
| Miami | 1810-1837 |
| Sidney | 1837-1870 |
| Bellefontaine | 1870-1912 |
| Marion | 1912- |

The above presbyteries were affiliated with the following synods:

| Virginia | 1790-1802 |
|------------|-----------|
| Kentucky | 1802-1814 |
| Ohio | 1814-1829 |
| Cincinnati | 1829-1870 |
| Toledo | 1871-1880 |
| Ohio | 1880- |



EARLY CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AND ITS SETTLEMENTS

Much was known of Ohio prior to the American Revolution of 1776, but the first settlements in the state were made after the termination of the war by which the Colonies won their freedom from the Mother Country.

A large part of what is now Ohio, prior to the Revolution, formed a part of the domain of Virginia, as this area was included in a grant of land which was defined by the charter of May 23, 1609, granted by King James I of England. At the close of the Revolution, Virginia relinquished her claims to the land north of the Ohio River, but reserved the lands lying between the Little Miami and the Scioto Rivers for the purpose of providing payment in land for its Revolutionary veterans who might wish to locate within the present State of Ohio.

It was not until 1805 that Champaign County was formed from Greene and Franklin Counties; it included not only what is now Champaign County, but all lands north to the state line and the territory lying between its present southern boundary and a line between ranges 8 and 9, which is eleven miles south of the present Champaign-Clark County Line. It is not necessary to the purpose of this book to establish definitely the northern boundary of the county, but the interested reader may find a full discussion of this subject on pages 81-92 of Middleton's History of Champaign County. It is significant, however, to note that Springfield was located in this county in 1805, and was its temporary county seat. At first there were only two townships, Salem and Mad River, in what is now Champaign County. The third township in existence in 1805 was that of Springfield, which was a strip seven miles wide across the southern part of what was then Champaign County. In other words, Salem Township included the present townships of Goshen, Rush, Wayne, and Union, and nearly all of the present townships of Salem and Urbana. Mad River included the others, or the western half of the county. However, it did not remain this way for long.

When Clark and Logan Counties were organized by legislative acts on December 26, 1817, and December 30, 1817, respectively, eight of the present townships had been organized. They were Mad River, Urbana, Union, Wayne, Salem, Concord, Harrison, and Adams. Other townships in the present-day Clark and Logan Counties had also been organized. (Ref: pages 82-92, 150-151, and 172 of Middleton's History of Champaign County.)

The western boundary of the reservation mentioned above, which was known as the Virginia Military Lands, was surveyed by Israel Ludlow in 1802, and is still known as the Ludlow Line. (Ref: pages 76-80, Middleton's History.) This line passes north and south through Salem and Union Townships. Highway No. 714 which intersects Route No. 36 just west of the Urbana Country Club is a part of this line. It was later discovered that this line was incorrect, having been drawn too far to the east. This deprived the old soldiers of a considerable tract of land to which they were rightfully entitled. A new boundary known as the Roberts Line was drawn. However, since all the lands, roads, etc., were surveyed from the Ludlow Line, it was still recognized, and the Congress of the United States "was asked to pass special acts to straighten out such difficulties as might ensue from defective titles to land in the narrow strip between the Ludlow and Roberts Lines."

Thus, it is seen that, although a considerable portion of Champaign County was included in the Virginia Military Lands, there was also a large part of the county open to settlers from other places.

This accounts for the fact that some of the early settlers of this area came from Virginia, while others came from Pennsylvania. An interesting example of these two migrations is revealed in Beer's History of Champaign County. In the sketch on Harrison Township, the author states that one of the earliest settlers in that area was a John Sarver, who was born in Virginia in 1779.

In 1802, Mr. Sarver was married "at what is now known as Buck Creek in this County, to Miss Nancy Robinson, a native of Pennsylvania." It is known that following the passage of the "Ordinance for the Government of the Northwestern Territory" in 1787 there was a rapid emigration from western Pennsylvania over the Ohio River, and, as will be observed later, many of the early Presbyterian Missionaries in this region were from that same state.

Just when the first pioneers came to what is now Champaign County is rather difficult to say. We can find no records of settlements prior to 1795 when the treaty was made with the Indians at Greenville, but thereafter they began to appear. It is in dispute whether Pierre Dugan or William Owen was the first settler. The former is known to have lived here with his Indian wife prior to 1800. Middleton's History of Champaign County states that "according to the best evidence, Dugan's cabin stood near where the Pennsylvania railroad crosses the highway, about two miles northeast of Urbana." It was near a creek now known as Dugan's Ditch. In 1797 William Owen settled about two miles south of where Westville now stands.

However, since, according to our best information, Presbyterianism got its start in Union Township, we are primarily concerned with the early settlers there. We cannot determine who was the first to settle permanently there. It is reasonably certain that Stephen Runyan and Joseph McLain, both Virginians, with their families, located in the township in 1801, although at that time the land on which they settled was still in Franklin County. Not knowing of any distinction between Military and Congress lands, they settled

east of the Ludlow line by mistake.

James A. McLain, the first white child in the township, was born on July 9, 1804. As stated above, the marriage of John Sarver and Nancy Robinson took place at Buck Creek in 1802. Later references will be made to records that lead the writer to believe there must have been several settlements in the southern part of what is now Champaign County and the northern part of Clark County as early as 1801.

PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATIONS

In our attempt to trace the history of the Presbyterian Church in this area, it is difficult to decide where to start. It would be profitable and interesting to begin with the Apostles, to describe the development of the Church through the Middle Ages, to study the Protestant Reformation, and to follow the migrations of the various national groups as they fled from their European homes to the shores of North America to escape persecution and to find religious liberty, but such is beyond the scope of our purpose. (Ref: "A Brief History of the Presbyterians" by Loetscher provides a brief but adequate survey of this background material.)

Instead, we have elected to begin with the organization of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church on May 21, 1789, in Philadelphia. This first General Assembly in the United States was comprised of sixteen presbyteries, divided into four Synods: (1) New York and New Jersey, (2) Philadelphia, (3) the Carolinas, (4) Virginia.

It is the last one, Virginia, from which Presbyterianism in this section is descended. It embraced four presbyteries: REDSTONE (western Pennsylvania), HANOVER (lower counties of Virginia), LEXINGTON (valley of Virginia), and TRANSYLVANIA (the new settlements in Kentucky and Tennessee).

Although, as we will observe later, several of the early missionaries in this region were from the Redstone Presbytery, it is the last of the above named presbyteries, Transylvania, with which we are primarily concerned. Organized May 17, 1786, it was formerly a part of the Presbytery of Abington of the Synod of the Carolinas, and included not only what is now Kentucky and Tennessee, but also the settlements along the Miamis in the Northwest Territory, in the present state of Ohio. As noted above, at the beginning of our story, it was in the Synod of Virginia, as was the Redstone Presbytery.

Following the Ordinance of 1787, the numbers of settlers moving into the southern part of Ohio and northern Kentucky greatly increased, and the Presbyterians, conscious of the importance of this great migration west, sent missionaries into the field. Dr. Sweet, prominent church historian, has the following to say about this movement of Presbyterianism into the area: "Not the least among the salient influences exercised by the churches on the rough and rude frontier, was the fact that they stood wholeheartedly for decency and honor. Presbyterianism in itself is an orderly system of government, and its introduction into any frontier community would at once tip the scales in favor of those forces which made for a better society." (Ref: page 7, "150 Years of Presbyterianism in the Ohio Valley.")

Theodore Roosevelt thus describes the early preachers in Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee: "Their preachers, all Presbyterians, followed close behind the first settlers and shared their fields, rifles in hand, and fought the Indians laboriously. They exhorted no less earnestly in the bare meeting houses on Sunday because their hands were roughened with guiding the plow and wielding the axe on week days; for they did not believe that being called to preach absolved them from earning their living by the sweat of

their brows."

As more and more settlers pushed west and north, the Synod of Virginia

divided the Presbytery of Transylvania into the following three smaller

presbyteries:

(1) The new Transylvania Presbytery in the central part of Kentucky, west of the Kentucky River and south to the Cumberland River, was composed of ten ministers.

(2) The West Lexington Presbytery which lay to the east of the Kentucky

River had nine ministers.

(3) The Washington Presbytery, comprising the remaining part of the state of Kentucky, lying northeast of the Main Licking River, and the settlements on the northwest side of the Ohio River included the western portion of Indiana. This presbytery, which was composed of seven ministers and included the churches in this part of Ohio, met for the first time on April 9, 1799.

PRESBYTERIANISM GETS A FOOTHOLD IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

It was soon after the division of the Transylvania Presbytery, perhaps even earlier, that our story of Presbyterianism in this immediate area had its beginnings. The records of Washington Presbytery reveal that on April 15, 1801, there was a verbal supplication presented by the people at the Forks of Mad River for as many supplies as the Presbytery may think proper to appoint. Although the writer has not been able to determine definitely what area is described by the term "Forks of Mad River," it is his understanding that it is either in or near the present Springfield, Ohio, which, though not in Champaign County today, was, at that time. These supplications from the people at the Forks of Mad River were renewed again in April 1802.

The first record which applies to what is now Champaign County is one in which a Mr. Runyan of Buck Creek requests supply preaching, July 25, 1804. According to the records of Washington Presbytery, a Reverend William Robinson was appointed to supply this request. On that date, Mr. Robinson was appointed to "supply one Sabbath at Mr. Runyan's on Buck Creek and one at North Liberty (half-way between what is now Plain City and Milford Center in Union County) on the Big Darby, and the rest at Beaulah, Dayton, and Honey Creek." However, histories of Champaign County state that Mr. Archibald Steele was the first Presbyterian to preach the Gospel in Champaign County, in 1802, and since there is a great deal of other evidence to support this claim, the writer believes that we are justified in accepting the date of 1802 as the time of the beginnings of Presbyerianism in this area. It may have been even earlier.

More will be written about Messrs. Robinson and Steele, as well as of other early missionaries in biographical sketches which appear later, but now it seems appropriate to cite some of the evidence supporting the 1802 or earlier date.

In one of the Urbana newspapers, dated November 10, 1913, there is a lengthy and interesting account of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the organization of the congregation in Urbana as an independent church. According to this article, Dr. John Woods, pastor of the Urbana church from 1865 until 1868, delivered an address on the history of the church, which the newspaper quotes in full. Dr. Woods states that Archibald Steele was the first Presbyterian minister to preach in Champaign County, and that Mr. Steele "came over from New Carlisle and preached at Buck Creek." Although Dr. Woods gives no date for the first preaching by Mr. Steele, he does state that the church at New Carlisle was organized in 1804, and it seems reasonable to assume that Mr. Steele may well have preached there earlier.

In a sermon preached on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of this church, November 26, 1933, Dr. Harry W. Barr, pastor of the Urbana church from 1919 until 1941, states that Archibald Steele was the first to preach in Champaign County, and that he did so in 1802. In this sermon, Dr. Barr quotes extensively from the Semi-Centennial sermon preached by Dr. J. A. P. McGaw, pastor of this church from 1869 until 1880.

Another newspaper article describing the dedication of the present church building in 1902 states that the said dedication coincided with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the coming of Presbyterianism to

Champaign County.

The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine, published in 1900, states on page 8, "Among the first positively known to us to have visited the earliest settlements of this section, which were located south of here, was the Rev. Archibald Steele, who was commissioned by the Presbytery of Transylvania in the springs of 1797 and 1799 as a missionary to the western Ohio settlements. A part of his mission was to make a list of the Presbyterians, and settlements wanting to establish churches."

In the History of Marion Presbytery, published in 1952, Dr. George Johnson of Bucyrus states, "Presbyterianism began in what is now Marion Presbytery with the coming of Archibald Steele, a licentiate missionary of Washington Presbytery (Synod of Virginia) to the settlements on Mad River and Upper Darby Creek in 1799. Mr. Steele has the distinction of being the first Presbyterian preacher in this area. He established a church in 1800 halfway between what is now Plain City (Columbus Presbytery) and Milford Center, and called it North Liberty in present-day Union County." Dr. Johnson has informed this writer that he based the above statement upon information found in a "History of Marion Presbytery," by A. C. Crist, published in 1908.

Other early missionaries who labored in this region and who are presumed, on the basis of the best evidence available, to have preached in Champaign County were Nicholas Pittenger and Thomas Marquis, who are said to have conducted the first Communion service in a grove east of Urbana in the fall of 1810, and also Joseph Stevenson, John Woods, and William Robinson; but we cannot be certain of the dates on which these men were present in Champaign County. What information is available will be included in biographical sketches which will appear later in this book.

THE EARLIEST MISSIONARIES OF THIS AREA

Early Presbyterianism was strongly missionary and evangelistic. The earliest missionaries were itinerant preachers with that intense loyalty to their faith which has characterized Soldiers of the Cross in all ages.

At the close of the Revoluton there was a general wave of infidelity and indifference toward religion felt throughout the country. As has been observed, these early missionaries were a salient influence in the society of that day and in the history of our country.

Following is a brief mention of the most active Presbyterian missionaries and ministers who are known to have labored, if not actually in Champaign County, at least in this area, prior to the organization of the Buck Creek Church in 1811, and the coming of its first regular pastor, the Rev. James Hughes, in 1814.

ARCHIBALD STEELE

In addition to the information given in chapter III, it is known that Mr. Steele appeared before the Transylvania Presbytery, October 6, 1796, and that he was licensed by the same presbytery on October 6, 1797. (Ref: page 164, 170-171, "Religion on the American Frontier" Vol. II, by Wm. Warren Sweet.)

The records of the first meeting of the Presbytery of Washington (April 9, 1799) state that "Mr. Archibald Steele, a licentiate under the care of the Presbytery, signified his acceptance of calls from Clear Creek and Orangedale Churches." According to Galbraith's "History of the Chillicothe Presbytery," Orangedale was afterwards called Lemon, which was near the present Lebanon, Ohio. Presbytery appointed an intermediate meeting at Orangedale for the first Tuesday in August 1799, to ordain Mr. Steele, but no meeting was held on that date because only two members were present. By the time of the fall meeting, the Orangedale congregation had changed its mind and was unwilling to receive him, so his ordination was postponed.

It is known definitely from the records of the Washington Presbytery that Mr. Steele was under rebuke and suspension, having had his license revoked in 1801, and not restored until 1805. At the meeting of the presbytery, April 15, 1801, he was advised to turn his attention to some other vocation in life and his license to preach was revoked. It was not until April 3, 1805, that his licensure was restored, and then only after Mr. Steele appeared and handed the presbytery a resolution of the synod recommending the returning of his licensure, provided the former difficulties had been removed. The following is a quotation from the records of the Washington Presbytery as to action taken in this case: "The Presbytery having taken into consideration the resolution, inquired into his moral character and his knowledge of practical religion, and agreed that they were such as ought to be sustained. On motion, his licensure was returned to him and the moderator was directed to advise and exhort him with respect to his conduct as a preacher of the Gospel in the future."

After his licensure was restored in 1805, he was appointed from time to time to supply churches at the headwater of the Little Miami and Mad Rivers, and also the Buck Creek Church. There are also many references to

various examinations for ordination, but each time the consideration was deferred, and the ordination postponed. As late as the meeting of the presbytery on April 1 and 2, 1807, there was a petition from Lebanon and Lemon (Órangedale), praying for the ordination of Mr. Steele, but presbytery judged that the request could not be granted "consistently with the rules of our discipline." (Ref: Galbraith's History of the Chillicothe Presbytery.) He was still under the care of the presbytery in 1810 when the Presbytery of Miami was formed, and was transferred as a licentiate to that presbytery.

A history of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Ohio, published in December 1900, quotes the records of Miami Presbytery of 1815, Vol. I, Page 207, as follows: "RESOLVED that there be an immediate meeting of the Presbytery at Springfield, Champaign County, Ohio, on the fourth Thursday in June, to attend to the trials requisite for the ordination of Mr. Archibald Steele." The next entry in the minutes of the Miami Presbytery was dated 22 June, 1815, and records the fact that presbytery met, that Mr. Steele preached, and was ordained. Thereafter, the name of Mr. Steele appears on the minutes of the old Synod of Ohio several times between 1815 and 1828 as a delegate from Miami Presbytery.

The following information has been obtained from the "Sesquicentennial Album of the Presbyterian Church of Plain City, Ohio" written by Mrs. P. A. Robinson in 1953. Mr. Steele came from Pennsylvania, and died in 1831 at what is now known as New Carlisle, age 59 years and 10 months. In 1800 he established the church at North Liberty (Chapter III) and in 1807 and 1808 he organized the Lower Liberty Presbyterian Church which consisted of two parts — Upper Liberty (Milford Center) and Lower Liberty near Pleasant Valley (Plain City).

The same source reveals that in 1807 he settled in Clark County, Bethel Township, and built a grist mill near the town of "Medway" on Mud Creek. In 1810 he organized what is now known as the "First Presbyterian Church" of New Carlisle, Ohio. "We find the stones erected to him and later to his wife on a pretty hill near where the old church stood and in what was once the cemetery next to the church. Nearby is a small tragic monument erected to his grandchildren — children of his son, Archibald William Steele — all six wiped out, probably by an epidemic of some sort."

A clipping from the Plain City Dealer of May 17, 1883, quotes a letter of April 25, 1870, written by William B. Irwin of Lebanon, Ohio. Mr. Irwin was Mr. Steele's nephew (Steele's sister's son). In this letter (a copy of which will be preserved in the records of this church), Mr. Irwin states that Mr. Steele "kept a regular day journal, yet in the hands of his heirs, to which I have always had free access." One quotation Mr. Irwin makes from the journal is of interest here. It is as follows: "Leaving Buck Creek, took the trail to Darby; at 4 o'clock arrived at the house of my old friend Joshua Ewing." Unfortunately the date of that entry in the journal is not given in Mr. Irwin's letter.

We have written so fully about Mr. Steele to show how difficult it is to establish the exact date of the beginnings of Presbyterianism in this county. As stated above, it is known that William Robinson was appointed to preach at Buck Creek in 1804. We also know that if Mr. Steele preached here in 1802, he did so without the approval of the presbytery. However, on the other hand, there is all the evidence cited above to support the claim that it

was he who was the first Presbyterian minister to preach in Champaign Couny, and that he was here in 1802. It is doubted that the exact date will be established more definitely, but it is the hope of the writer that some future historian may be able to use what is written here as a basis for a more exact story.

THOMAS MAROUIS

Thomas Marquis, who, as mentioned above, was one of the ministers who conducted the first Communion service at Buck Creek in 1810, the father-in-law of another well known pioneer preacher of this section, the Rev. Joseph Stevenson, was from Western Pennsylvania. According to information obtained from Dr. E. B. Welsh of New Concord, Ohio, and from the History of the Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine, Ohio, "Silvertongue Marquis, as they called him, was probably the most eloquent of our pioneer preachers." He was born in Opequon Valley, near Winchester, Virginia, in 1753. At the age of 22 he married Jane, sister of Lieutenant James Park. The heirs of Park, "who was an officer in the Indian war, having been given the right by President James Madison, under the Act of Congress of August 10, 1799, to select 2667 acres of vacant land where they chose, were undoubtedly largely influenced by Mr. Marquis, on account of his personal knowledge of this section, to select, in 1806, the land immediately north of and adjoining the present city limits" of Bellefontaine.

Like James Hughes, Marquis was educated in the west, having studied under Dr. Smith, of Buffalo, and Dr. McMillen, of Cannonsburg. It was not until he was 36 years of age that he began his study for the ministry. Dr. Welsh states that he was a veteran of the American Revolution.

He and his bride moved to Cross Creek, Washington County, Pennsylvania, in 1776. He was licensed by the Redstone Presbytery in 1793, and in 1794 he was called to Cross Creek, under the Presbytery of Ohio, where he continued for 32 years as pastor, also serving Upper Buffalo much of the time.

It was through his active participation in the management of the Western Missionary Board that he was greatly interested in Ohio and Kentucky, and made several western trips as early as 1800, and as late as 1817. It is likely that it was on one of these trips that he and Mr. Pittenger conducted a Communion service at Buck Creek.

It is known that he died September 29, 1827, while visiting his son-inlaw and daughter, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stevenson, in Bellefontaine, and that he was buried there. Dr. Welsh states that he is buried by the side

of Mr. Stevenson, although the latter died February 24, 1865.

NICHOLAS PITTENGER

The only information that this writer has about Nicholas Pittenger, other than that he helped to conduct the first Communion service at Buck Creek, was obtained from Dr. Welsh. "He was received as a candidate by Ohio Presbytery in October 1802, with the notation that he had gone through a regular course of literature . . . His first pastorate was at Westfield, Pennsylvania, and Poland, Ohio. He was dismissed from Ohio to Erie Presbytery. He is listed on the rolls of Washington-Chillicothe Presbytery in 1814, but there is no record of where he was located." W. S. Kennedy, in his book, "Plan of Union," page 36, says that Mr. Pittenger was ordained by Erie Presbytery, though the date of ordination is not given, and that he lived at Poland, Ohio, until 1810, when he moved to Chillicothe, where he died; the date of his death is not given.

WILLIAM ROBINSON

Nothing much is known of this William Robinson, except what is mentioned above: that on July 25, 1804, he was appointed to supply the request of Mr. Runyan of Buck Creek. At the same time he was appointed to preach at North Liberty. According to information received from the office of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Mr. Robinson was a member of West Lexington Presbytery, 1799 to 1803, a member of the Washington Presbytery in 1809, and in 1814 he was a member of Miami Presbytery. The same information states that he died March 28, 1827.

However, the reference to his appointment to preach at Buck Creek in 1804 shows that he was a member of the Washington Presbytery on that date. The History of the Bellefontaine Church states that Mr. Robinson served vacant churches in the Miami Presbytery in 1814, and later preached at Mack-a-Cheek, the first Presbyterian Church in what is now Logan County. (See Chapter X.)

JOHN WOODS

One of the Champaign County histories states that John Woods was the first Presbyterian minister to preach at Buck Creek, that it was in 1807 that he came, and that services were usually held in the cabin of James McLain. The History of the Bellefontaine Church states that John Woods was located at Buck Creek in Champaign County in 1807, services being held at private houses. This seems to indicate what the writer is led by other sources to believe; namely, that even at that early date, services were held both at Buck Creek and Mutual.

JOSEPH STEVENSON

Joseph Stevenson, according to the histories of Champaign County, was another of the early ministers to preach at Buck Creek prior to 1811, when it was organized as a church. Middleton's History of Champaign County states that Mr. Stevenson ordained David Vance as an elder when the Buck Creek church was organized. We know that he was the Moderator of the Session there as late as April 20, 1843.

He was born March 25, 1799, in Hagerstown, Maryland. On August 21, 1804, he married Sarah Marquis, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Marquis under whose direction he studied theology. He was licensed to preach October 15, 1808. It is known that he was very active in this area, having been one of the early preachers at Piqua, and the first pastor of the church at Bellefontaine. He also organized and was the first pastor of the Stoney Creek or Springhill Church. He died February 24, 1865, at Bellefontaine, where he is buried alongside his father-in-law, Thomas Marquis.

PASTORS

JAMES HUGHES

1814-1818

James Hughes, the first pastor of the Buck Creek Church, was born in York County, Pennsylvania, in 1765. He was not Scotch-Irish, but Welsh in origin. He was one of the first two men who received their entire training in arts and theology west of the Alleghenys. His early education was under the direction of Rev. Joseph Smith and Rev. Thaddeus Dodd, the latter having a large cabin erected near his dwelling. This cabin was used as a school room and the young men boarded in his family. In 1785 Rev. Joseph Smith of Buffalo and Cross Creek congregations of Washington County, Pennsylvania, opened a school for assisting young men to prepare for the Gospel ministry. James Hughes enrolled in this school. Ladies of five congregations united in furnishing these students with clothing; their summer clothing was of linen dyed with a solution made of new-mown hay. Later, a Dr. McMillen was Hughes' teacher.

Mr. Hughes was licensed to preach the Gospel on April 15, 1788, by the Redstone Presbytery which included all Western Pennsylvania and a considerable section of western Virginia, and was ordained by the same presbytery, April 21, 1790.

On October 15, 1793, he was dismissed to the Ohio Presbytery, being one of its original members. The minutes of Redstone Presbytery of the above date state: "Presbytery, finding that the Synod (Virginia), at their last meeting did direct James Hughes and others into a separate presbyery, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Ohio, they are therefore dismissed from this presbytery."

On June 29, 1814, he was dismissed by the Presbytery of Ohio to join the Presbytery of Miami, and about the same time moved to Urbana, where

he acted as stated supply and missionary.

He was an active member of the Board of Trustees of the Western Missionary Society, and made several missionary journeys through the Miami Valley prior to 1814; at least two journeys were made as a missionary to the

Indian tribes on the Sandusky River.

While at Buck Creek, he also preached in Urbana, which at that time was a branch of the Buck Creek Church. Some of the histories of Champaign County state that he preached at Mingo. The History of the Church at Bellefontaine reveals that he also preached at Mack-a-Cheek. In the General Assembly minutes of 1816, there is an entry showing payment to Rev. James Hughes for service in the vicinity of Urbana, and to the Indians about Lewistown. The writer believes that the Lewistown mentioned is the one a few miles northwest of Bellefontaine. Similar entries are in the minutes of 1815 and 1814. The one for 1813 mentions no specific places but says "for four months round about Ohio at discretion."

Hughes was at Buck Creek and Urbana until 1818, when he was called to be principal of the school that grew into Miami University, being its first President. He held this office until his death on May 21, 1821, at the age of 56,

He was married to Mary Smith, the daughter of his teacher, Rev. Joseph

("Hellfire") Smith. Mrs. Esther Smith, his wife's mother, made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Hughes after they came to Ohio, and is buried with them at Oxford. It is also known that Mr. Hughes was married to Nancy Lamme of Champaign County. Several of their descendants are still members of the Presbyterian Church in Urbana; among them are Richard Berry, Mrs. Dallas McCrery, Mrs. John Thomas, and Mrs. Clyde Brown.

He is known to have had two brothers who were ministers, Rev. Smiley Hughes and Rev. Thomas E. Hughes. Two of his sons, Joseph S., and Thomas

E. Hughes, were also Presbyterian ministers.

Beer's History of Champaign County says of Mr. Hughes: "He was a man universally beloved and remembered by many still alive for his many virtues. He was not considered to be a great preacher, but was a rare good man and well qualified to build up an infant church."

JOHN BRICH

1821-1824

In the several sources of information consulted by this writer, the name of the second pastor of the Buck Creek Church is spelled in various ways. In Beer's History of Champaign County it is "Britch," while at other places it is "Brice." In the old minutes of the Buck Creek Church and the General Assembly minutes, it is "Brich." However, since the dates and incidents cited by the various sources for the most part agree, it is presumed that they refer to the same man. Since the minutes of the church and the General Assembly agree on "Brich," this spelling will be used in this record.

The Buck Creek Session records show that in 1821 Mr. Brich was invited to preach for six months, at the end of which the invitation was extended for another six months. Later records show that in March 1822, he was asked to preach one year, and in March 1823, the invitation was given for another year. In March 1824, it is recorded that the Trustees settled with John Brich.

According to the various anniversary sermons mentioned above, "he was an Englishman and a bachelor. The salary for the first six months was \$50.00, with board for himself and his horse. At no time was his salary large. He was an unselfish man, and made a contribution of \$19.50 for the first church in Urbana. There is an interesting order from the record bearing the date of October 29, 1824. 'Mr. James Connor, please pay your subscription due me for 1823, \$1.00 to the Trustees toward building the new Presbyterian Church in Urbana, in some useful article to the church, and convenient for you to find, and their receipt that you have done so shall be sufficient to free you from any claim of mine for the same, as witness my hand. John

Beer's History of Champaign County states that "Mr. Brich was a protege of Lady Huntington, under whose auspices he had been educated and sent to the western wilds. He was a large, heavy man, with a broad English pronunciation, nearly allied to the Scotch. Many anecdotes are told of his eccentric ways and speech. One of them was that on a certain occasion, he announced to his congregation that he would preach in that house on the next Sabbath, the Lord willing, and on the Sunday after the next,

anyhow.'

"His residence was in Urbana, and his library kept in a store box. On an occasion, a young lady whom he had reproved for indulgence in light reading proposed to do better if he would loan her one of his large folios she had seen on his table. The book was a large one, and held together by massive brass clasps. It proved to be a volume of Barrow's or some other sermons of that day which he loved and guarded with jealous care. The young miss cared nothing for Barrow, but had her curiosity excited by the heavy clasp and the closing of the fly leaf to the back by many wafers — a mode of pasting papers together at that day. She was a true daughter of Eve, and had her curiosity gratified by lifting the leaf from its wafer fastenings, and the only writing found on the page being, 'You are good man but a most incorrigible beggar.' The fly leaf was replaced but the young lady never got beyond that page in the book."

Beer's History states that his last sermon at Euck Creek was on the day the building was destroyed, and that he moved to Illinois where, on one winter day, he was found frozen to death, sitting on the ground with his back against a tree and his saddle-bags by his side. If this account is correct, he did not actually leave Urbana until later than 1824, for the General Assembly minutes of 1825 show that he was living in Urbana at that time, but

without a charge.

DAVID MERRILL

1827-1841

In 1827, the Reverend Mr. David Merrill was invited to preach for four weeks, then for six months, after which time he became stated supply, and later, in 1835, two years after the separation of the Urbana and Buck Creek Churches, he was installed as pastor of the Urbana Church.

Among the old records in the possession of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, there is a book of sermons by Mr. Merrill, published in 1855. This book contains a biographical sketch of the first pastor of the Urbana Church.

He was born in Peacham, Vermont, on September 8, 1788. "In his early years," says this biographical sketch, "his notion of religion was that it would do well enough for the aged and infirm. Beyond this he thought scarcely anything about it, except when he felt an undefined fear. In his fourteenth year, there was some religious excitement, and he was greatly agitated. He commenced praying morning and night, regarding prayer as an indispensable but hateful duty. Associating religion with prayer, he disliked the two equally; yet, while the excitement lasted, he entertained a hope. When the excitement ceased, he ceased praying and hoping. Looking back upon his religion, he saw that it was only fear. Assuming that the religion of others was nothing different from his own, he concluded that there was no God, or if there was, that He had very little to do with men. His skepticism maintained its supremacy in his mind until his final surrender of himself to Christ on December 7, 1817, during the first great revival in Peacham."

He was graduated from Dartmouth College on August 22, 1821, having had a remarkably high standing in the college. From the fall of 1821 to that of 1822, he was employed by the Caledonian County Grammar School in Peacham. He then entered the Andover Theological Seminary, from which he was graduated in 1825, and received his license to preach on August 8,

1825.

During the winter of 1826-1827, he preached at various places in Indiana and Illinois, coming to Urbana and Buck Creek in June 1827. When the Urbana congregation became an independent church in 1833, Mr. Merrill

apparently devoted his entire time to the newly organized church, for the reports of the Buck Creek Session state that on April 3, 1833, "the Rev. David Merrill ceased to preach to Buck Creek and became the minister of the Urbana Presbyterian Church." However, from the same records, we learn that he preached at Buck Creek again from September 1836 until October

It was during Mr. Merrill's pastorate in Urbana that the controversy between the old and new school branches of the Presbyterian Church was at its height. Due to his congregational training, Mr. Merrill's sympathies were with the new school. He was regarded with suspicion by his old school brethren in the presbytery, but, so far as the writer can determine, there was no new school church in Urbana, as in many communities. His pastorate covered an important period in both the Urbana and Buck Creek congregations. During that period of years, so we are told by one of the anniversary sermons quoted earlier in this book, about 300 people were received into the two churches. It was also during his pastorate that the first two church buildings were erected in Urbana. The second house at Buck Creek was erected during the same period.

The biographical sketch referred to above states, "When Mr. Merrill went west, there were comparatively few educated there, and he naturally assumed a prominent and influential position among the clergy besides being

universally popular among the people."

In view of his relationships with the presbytery, with which we shall deal more fully later (Chaper X) the statement about his place of leadership among the clergy may be questioned. Be that as it may, the records of the Sidney Presbytery reveal that on April 14, 1841, "the pastoral relationship between Reverend David Merrill and the Urbana Church was dissolved at the request of the church." The only record this writer can find in the minutes of the Session of the Urbana Church simply states that on a Sabbath in March 1841, the Reverend David Merrill ceased preaching at this church.

In his famous "Ox Sermon" which had wide circulation, he first propounded the principle that the maker and seller of ardent spirits should be held responsible for the evils of intemperance, and used as his text the law enunciated by Moses, that, where the ox pushed with the horn and the

owner knew the fact, he was liable for the injury the ox might do.

According to the biographical sketch mentioned above, Mr. Merrill was married in Urbana, April 23, 1828, to Miss Amy Hughes, daughter of the Rev. James Hughes. She died May 21, 1836. Mr. Merrill was again married in Urbana, September 12, 1837, to Miss Mary Grandlin Hunt. His second wife was a daughter of Dr. Benjamin Van Cleve Hunt.

Mr. Merrill died on July 22, 1850, in Peacham, Vermont.

THOMAS ELCOCK

1841

Not much is known about Mr. Elcock except that he preached here for a while in 1841 or 1842. Since he is listed in the General Assembly minutes of 1845 as a licentiate, it is presumed that while in Urbana he was a student. He is also listed in the General Assembly minutes as pastor at Covington, Ohio, from 1846 until 1852.

His name is included in the list of pastors of this church which was

prepared for the celebration of the 100th anniversary in 1933, but the writer can discover no mention of him in the Session records of the period.

Middleton's History of Champaign County states that Mr. Merrill was succeeded by Reverend Thomas Elcock, who supplied the congregation for

six months.

A newspaper article in the Urbana Citizen and Gazette, dated May 2, 1902, states that at the dedication of the present building on Sunday, May 4, 1902, a congraulatory message from the Reverend Mr. Thomas Elcock of Van Wert, Ohio, was read. From the General Assembly minutes it is learned that he was stated supply at Delphos in 1853, and pastor-elect there in 1854. It is also known that he was the first pastor at Van Wert, Ohio; his pastorate there continuing from 1852 until 1861.

The History of the Presbyterian Church of Van Wert, published in 1943,

has this to say about the first pastor of that church:

"The Reverend Thomas Elcock was imbued with the Spirit of Service. He was a typical Circuit Rider who visited his different parishes on horseback, and he was familiar with many a lonesome wilderness trail in this Northwest country. He lived in Delphos before removing to Van Wert and his help and courage at the time the Asiatic Cholera plague struck this country in the early 50s is traditional. At the time of that dread calamity he was more than a Spiritual advisor — he helped to nurse the afflicted and to bury the dead."

He lived in Van Wert after his retirement, died there October 18, 1905, at the age of 94, and is buried there with his wife, Elizabeth, who died

March 24, 1889, at the age of 87.

His daughter, Anna, laid the cornerstone of the new church at Van Wert in 1923; and another daughter, Elizabeth, at her death in 1941, willed the church enough money to buy three memorial windows: two dedicated to the sisters (there were five daughters), and one to Rev. Thomas Elcock and wife.

ALEXANDER M. COWAN

1842-1844

There is an entry in the minutes of the Session of the Urbana Church that states, "On the 15th day of August, 1842, agreeably to previous notice, the congregation of Urbana met at the church and proceeded to elect a pastor, whereupon the Reverend Mr. Alexander M. Cowan was unanimously elected pastor of this church." It also states that on the 22nd day of November, 1842, Mr. Cowan was installed by a committee appointed by presbytery. (Presbytery of Sidney.)

He is listed as Moderator of the Session at each meeting of the Session from the above date until April 8, 1844, when he asked the congregation to join with him in requesting presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship existing between himself and the church. During that period he ordained James C. Smith and Alexander Stuart as elders and Duncan McDonald, Charles Flago, and William Smith as Deacons (September 1, 1842) and

several new members were listed as being received.

No mention is made in the Session minutes as to the circumstances that caused Mr. Cowan to leave, but among the papers in possession of the church is an old handbill (a reproduction of which is included in these pages) which announces a meeting at which Mr. Cowan proposes to explain his side of

the controversy between himself and the presbytery that resulted in his being dismissed. The writer assumes that it was the new vs. old school controversy described in a later chapter, but is unable to prove it.

If he were at that time in disfavor in the presbytery or the church, he

PUBLIC MARKET

Bev. A. M. COWAN requests the public to attend a meeting at the LUTHER-AN CHURCH on to morrow evening.

Friday, April 17th,

At 7 1.2 o'clock. Mr. Cowns has been excluded from the ministry in the Presbyterian Church for signing a paper protesting against the unconstitutional acts of the late Assemblies of the Church. The Presbytery he was connected with demanded of him to sign an affidavit, that he had slandered the church, and recall what he had said in the paper. Mr. Cowns asked the Presbytery to hear his reasons why he could not sign the oath. The Presbytery refused to hear him, and cut him off from the ministry and communion of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Cowns will inform the public of bis action in this matter, at the meeting. URBANA, Apr. 16.

The above is a copy of the reproduction of an old hand bill which was given to this writer by Miss Margaret L. James in late 1952. The date of the meeting announced in this hand bill was probably April 17, 1844, since Mr. Cowan was pastor here from 1842 until 1844.

soon must have been restored to their good grace, because he was at the Session meeting in Urbana on March 8, 1845, and upon request of the Session, acted as Moderator, November 1, 1854, after Dr. Raffensberger left. He was Moderator of the Presbytery of Sidney, April 13, 1853. His name appears in the General Assembly minutes each year from 1845 through 1867. With the exception of 1847, when his address was Frankford, Kentucky, he lived that entire period in Urbana.

The writer understands that at least one of his daughters lived in Urbana for a number of years thereafter. The last time his name appeared in the General Assembly minutes was in 1867.

J. B. ADAMS

1845-1846

Nothing is known of Mr. Adams except that he was Stated Supply of the Urbana Church for a short period. The General Assembly minutes of 1846 list him as stated supply at Urbana, and the old records of the church indicate that he served as Moderator of the Session at four meetings: July 26 and November 8, 1945, and March 7 and June 19, 1846. The General Assembly minutes for 1860 list a J. B. Adams as pastor at North Madison, Indiana, but it is not known if this is the man who was at Urbana.

THOMAS FORSYTHE MAGILL

1846-1852

The third installed pastor of the Urbana Church after its separation from Buck Creek is first listed as the Moderator of the Session, November 7, 1846. He was the stated supply (*) until December 11, 1950, when he was installed by the Presbytery of Sidney as pastor of the church. He continued to serve

in this capacity until his death, Monday, September 20, 1852.

Nothing is known of his life before 1846, and nothing significant about his ministry in Urbana is found in the Session minutes, but that he was loved by his people is shown by the resolution adopted by the Session following his death. So far as is known by this writer, Mr. Magill was the only minister to die while serving his ministry in this church. The resolution mentioned is as follows:

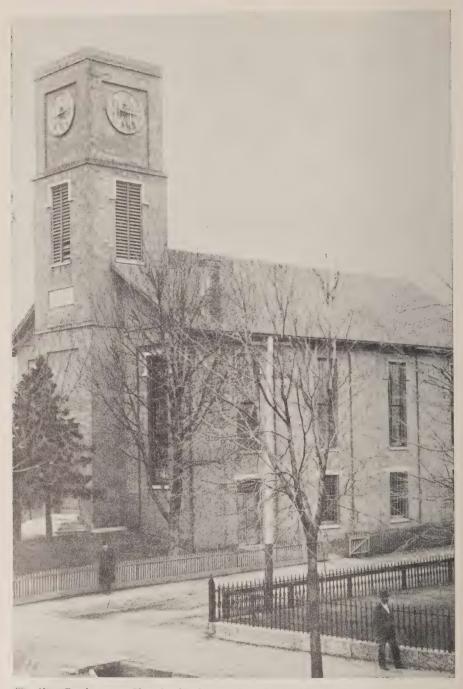
"The Elders held a meeting in view of the effective Providence which has deprived the Session of its presiding member, and the church of its pastor. In this deep affliction which we cannot fathom now, we would recognize the hand of our Master, and be still and know that He is God, believing that what He does, though we know not now, we shall know hereafter.

'For God is His own Interpreter And He will make it plain.'

"In the death of the Reverend Thomas F. Magill, which occurred on the evening of Monday, the 20th of September, 1852, at 11:00 o'clock, the Church of Urbana has lost a faithful and affectionate pastor, of which he left the most indubitable testimony in his dying moments, as among the last concern which lingered upon his mind and escaped his humbling life, was his great anxiety for the Spiritual interests of his pastoral charge, from which he was about to be severed by death, the elders of the church would hereby record their united testimony of the many excellencies which adorned the character of their deceased pastor, and especially his truly honest and fearless manner of uniformly opposing whatever he sincerely believed to be wrong, and detrimental to the piety of his church, and they feel that the church has abundant cause of devout gratitude to God for the remembrance of his past faithful labors.

"This church, in the death of their pastor, is admonished that the Lord is holding a controversy with them and they have received an unmistakable summons to humble and examine themselves, 'to repent and do the first works, else He will come unto us quickly and remove the Candlestick out

of His place, except we repent."



The First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Ohio; this building was erected about 1853, and torn down in 1894 to make room for the present church. It was the third of four houses of worship erected by the Presbyterians of Urbana.

(*) Stated supply is the Presbyterian term for a minister who serves a congregation for a definite period of time, but who has not been installed by the presbytery. At the end of each period of service, he must be reappointed. On the other hand, a pastor is installed for an indefinite period of time.

EDWIN B. RAFFENSBERGER

1852-1854

According to the list of pastors of the Urbana church drawn up at the time of the 100th anniversary in 1933, Dr. Raffensberger was supply pastor of this church beginning in October 1852 and continuing until sometime in 1853. Although there is no mention in the Session records of the date on which he started to preach, there is a note that at the Communion service on April 8, 1853, he was stated supply. It is doubted that at that time he had that official relationship with the church, since he is listed in the General Assembly minutes of 1853 as a licentiate and pastor-elect at Urbana. However, it is reasonably certain that he preached at the Urbana church from October 1852 until his ordination in the spring or early summer of 1853, at which time he was installed as pastor.

The minutes of the Session dated Monday, April 11, 1853, state that "The congregation was convened agreeably to a notice given on the Sabbath at the request of the Session where it was unanimously resolved to place a call in the hands of the presbytery to be presented to E. B. Raffensberger with a view, if the way be clear, to his becoming our pastor." The History of the Bellefontaine Church states that he was installed at Urbana in May 1853. So this must have been the date of both his ordination and installation.

He was born in East Berlin, Adams County, Pennsylvania, January 20, 1824, and in 1836 removed to Springfield, Ohio, where he united with the Presbyterian Church in 1841. He was graduated from Princeton University

in 1849 and the Princeton Theological Seminary in 1852.

He was married to Anna Frances Whiting of Johnson, Vt., at Urbana, November 16, 1854, by the Rev. William Cox, who was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Piqua, and who served Communion at Urbana, April 8, 1853, before Mr. Raffensberger's ordination.

Dr. Woods, in his story of the church given on the occasion of the 80th anniversary, November 1913, tells the following anecdote concerning the

circumstances under which Raffensberger left the Urbana church:

"Although Mr. Raffensberger was an able man and a good preacher, his pastorate in Urbana terminated suddenly and permanently. One Sunday morning the bell rang at the usual hour for the public service. The congregation assembled and the choir was ready to sing the Doxology. They waited, and waited, and waited and looked at the clock, and waited some more. Finally one of the Elders went to the study to see what was the matter. The minister was sitting there calm and composed.

'Why, Mr. Raffensberger,' said the Elder, 'don't you know that it is time?'

'Yes,' said Mr. Raffensberger, 'I do, but I don't propose to preach any more for this church until they pay up my salary.'

"Well, of course, the people were mad as hornets, and they presented Mr. Raffensberger with his resignation. I thought I would mention this incident as a warning to Brother Dr. Dampster, that if he ever thinks of putting up a bluff on this congregation, he had better be prepared to go. It is also a warning to the church not to fall behind with the salary." (Urbana Citizen, November 10, 1913.)

In the Session minutes there is no record of his leaving. Nor do the Session minutes reveal any significant action taken during his pastorate. However, Dr. McGaw's semi-centennial sermon mentioned above, and quoted by Dr. Barr in his 100th anniversary sermon, and the history of the Bellefontaine church agree that a new church building was erected in 1853. If this be true, it was the third of four buildings for the Urbana church.

Following his departure from Urbana, he served the following pastorates: First Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine, Ohio, November 6, 1854, to April 1859; First Presbyterian Church of Toledo, Ohio, April 1859 to September 1868; Westminster Presbyterian Church of Cleveland, Ohio, April 1870 to April 1873; First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland, October 1873 to October 1877; engaged in editorial work in Philadelphia the next four years; First Presbyterian Church of Marion, Ohio, October 1881 to June 1884. He became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Muncy, Pennsylvania, July 1884. Dr. Woods stated that Dr. Raffensberger died a few years prior to 1913 in Cumberland, Maryland; the History of the Bellefontaine church states he died May 1, 1885.

He served as an Army Chaplain during the war between the States, having been granted leave of absence by his church in Toledo in September 1861. He served in the 14th Ohio Volunteers until late in the fall of 1862, when he returned to Toledo very low with the fever. In January 1863, he resigned his Chaplaincy by advice of his physician and resumed his minis-

terial labors.

"He was for many years one of the trustees of Wooster University, having been one of its most enthusiastic founders. He was also a trustee of the Chicago Theological Seminary (McCormick) for several years." (History of the Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine, Ohio.)

He received the degrees of A.B. and M.A. from Princeton and the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was bestowed upon him by Heidel-

berg College.

LEANDER H. LONG

1855-1864

At a meeting held November 25, 1854, the congregation issued a call for Mr. Long to become pastor of this church, but it is difficult to establish the exact date on which he began his work in Urbana. He is not listed in the minutes of the Session as Moderator until June 1855, but there is an entry on March 10, 1855, stating that, "Mrs. Elizabeth Frances Long was received into the Communion of this church, certified by her husband, Rev. L. H. Long." Rev. H. R. Price was Moderator of the meeting at which Mrs. Long was received. It is assumed that Mr. Long began his work here between March and June 1855. Beer's History of Champaign County states that L. H. Long became pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in Urbana in 1849.

Dr. Woods in his address on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of this church in 1913 states that Mr. Long "... came into the Presbyterian Church from the Associate Reformed Church. He was an earnest and faithful minister of the Gospel, but he had some personal habits that tended to impair his influence. He was unconventional in dress and manner, and was an inveterate user of tobacco. He went into politics and was elected to the legislature. He never took another pastorate, although he lived many years after leaving Urbana."

Nothing is found in the Session minutes that would indicate the cause of Mr. Long's leaving the church here. A resolution passed by the congregation requesting presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship states, "Resolved, that whilst we shall regret the separation, and whilst the great majority of the church cherish for him the kindest regards and Christian affection, yet yielding to his request, we respectfully ask presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship existing between him and this church." This reso-

lution was dated January 30, 1864.



This picture of the Court House and the Presbyterian Church appeared in "Retrospect," the souvenir program of the Champaign County Sesqui-Centennial Celebration which was held on Labor Day, September 7, 1953. It was taken from a lithograph which was first published in the "Atlas of Champaign County" which was published in 1874. The Court House was built in 1840 and the Church in 1853.

Although he entered politics, he did not leave the ministry. His name is listed in the roll of ministers in the General Assembly until 1904. Urbana is given as his address from 1868-1873. In 1875 he was living in Bellefontaine and at Xenia in 1876. He is listed as pastor of the church at Lebanon, Ohio, in 1880, and was living in Denver, Colorado, without charge, in 1885-1890. From 1895-1904 he is listed as being retired, living in Columbus, Ohio. He must have died somewhere between 1904 and 1906 because his name does not appear in the minutes of 1906.

JOHN WOODS

1865-1868

An entry in the minutes of the Session dated April 24, 1865, states, "The committee appointed by the presbytery for the purpose met this day and installed Rev. John Woods as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, according to the form prescribed in the book." Another entry informs us that in accordance with his request the pastoral relations were dissolved by the presbytery at its meeting in April 1868.

An obituary of Mrs. Woods that was read by this writer states that her husband was a native of Hamilton, Ohio. Since the General Assembly minutes state that he was seventy-nine years of age at the time of his death (1918) it is known that he was born in 1839.



I: terior view of church showing choir during the pastorate of Dr. McGaw (1869-1880). Walter Small is at the organ.

The General Assembly minutes of 1856 include the name of John Woods as a licentiate under the care of the Presbytery of Ohio.

While pastor at Urbana, he was married to Harriet Vance, daughter of one of the first elders of this church, A. F. Vance, who was the son of Joseph Vance, one time Governor of Ohio. Mrs. Woods was an aunt of the late Mrs. Charles Brand.

Following his pastorate at Urbana, Dr. Woods served as stated supply or pastor at Cedar Falls, Iowa (1878); St. Paul, Minn. (1885); Merrian Park, Minn. (1890); Newark, Ohio (1892); Ludington, Michigan (1894-1904) and New Carlisle, Ohio (1906-1910). In 1869, 1877, and 1893, he is listed as living in Urbana without charge. From 1911 until 1918, he was listed as retired living in Urbana. He died in Dayton, Ohio, May 6, 1918, at the age of 79.

At the dedication of the present church in May 1902, a message of congratulations from Dr. Woods was read. At that time he was living in Luding-

ton, Michigan.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 80th anniversary (1913) of the organization of this church, he delivered an address on the history of the church. This address has been a great deal of help to the writer in preparing the material for this book. It is too long to be included here in its entirety, but it can be found in the church files.

JAMES A. P. McGAW

1869-1880

Dr. McGaw was pastor of this church from 1869 until 1880. Although the call for his pastoral services was issued by the congregation December 6, 1868, he was not installed until April 28, 1869. His pastorate continued until the summer of 1880. The Communion service on June 26, 1880, was, so far as can be determined, the last service conducted by Dr. McGaw in this church. His term of service as installed pastor was the longest of any minister in the history of the church prior to that of Dr. Harry W. Barr, who was pastor from 1919 to 1941.

Dr. Woods, in the 80th anniversary address which has been mentioned several times, states that he had known Dr. McGaw in his college days at Miami University, and an entry in the minutes of the Session, dated March 6, 1869, reveals that Mrs. Mary A. McGaw was received by letter from the Second United Presbyterian Church of Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois.

Since Dr. McGaw's name does not appear in the General Assembly minutes prior to 1869, it is assumed that this was his first pastorate in the

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Several things of historical interest took place during the years he was pastor. It was in 1869 that the organ was installed. This organ remained in use in the church until 1953, when it was removed to make room for a new one. A more complete story of this organ, and also of the one installed in

1953, will be found elsewhere in this book.

At the meeting of the Session, July 26, 1870, James R. McBette, administrator of the estate of Mrs. Monia Gaston, deceased, made a statement in regard to a note given by Mrs. Gaston for \$1,000.00 to establish a scholar-ship at the Oxford Female College, with the provision that the Session of this church should have the right of nominating the person to enjoy the benefit of said scholarship. Reverend R. D. Monis, president of said college, made a statement in regard to the cost of tuition in said institution, showing

that the college could not afford to establish a scholarship for \$1,000.00. Both parties desired the Session "to take some action in premises." After a free interchange of views, the Session took a recess until the next day, when it heard still further statements from the parties mentioned above. It was decided by the Session to take no action on this matter until the parties came to some agreement between themselves.

During February and March 1874, a revival was held in the church that resulted in 102 additions to its membership. In reading the list of those received at that time, the writer noticed the names of several persons whom he has known during his pasorate here. One, Kerrie H. Hovey, now Mrs.

John Bucher, is still living and is an active member of this church.

The following entry dated March 20, 1874, appears in the minutes of the Session:

"At the close of the series of meetings which the church has been holding since February 15th, the Session desires to record with gratitude to the goodness of the Lord in the gracious revival which the church has enjoyed. From the beginning of our special meetings, we felt that the presence of the Lord was with us, quickening the faith, love and zeal of Christians and enlightening the mind of the unconverted in the knowledge of Christ. We give praise to the Lord for the memorable Communion season which we enjoyed on the first Sabbath of this month (March 1874). On that beautiful day, in the presence of a very large congregation, seventy-five persons were publicly received in the fellowship of the church on profession of faith. Since that time twenty-one have been received on profession and seven by letter. We feel that we have received a great addition to our moral and spiritual, as well as to our numerical. strength. For them and all God's mercies we desire to be unfeignedly thankful, and we humbly implore the continuance of God's spirit with us, that we may remain in vital union with our Savior, and being rooted and grounded in love, may ever bring forth abundantly the fruits of righteousness."

On February 26, 1880, Dr. McGaw notified the Session that he had received an earnest call from the First Presbyterian Church at Rock Island, Illinois, and that while he would decide for himself what his duty was in this matter, he would like to hear from the Session if there was any reason known to any member of the Session why the relationship of the pastor should be dissolved. A poll of opinion indicated that so far as the Session knew, there was no reason for the pastor to leave, but on the other hand there was an earnest wish and desire for him to remain.

Apparently this satisfied Dr. McGaw, for he decided to remain, but the church at Rock Island was persistent and again on June 4, 1880, the pastor stated that the Illinois congregation had renewed its call to him and that at this time he felt it was his duty to accept the same. After recording the request of the pastor for the congregation to concur with him in his request for presbytery to dissolve the relationship, the Clerk of the Session adds that the pastor addressed the congregation at considerable length, stating the following reasons for his resignation: He had been discouraged by the small number uniting on profession of faith, by the number who neglected their church duties, and by the small attendance at night meetings. He felt that

his time of service was done and that another could take up the work and do it better than he. On the other hand, he had been called unanimously into his new field. And he believed he could do better there than here.

The relationship was dissolved by the Presbytery of Bellefontaine June 14, 1880. But before Dr. McGaw actually left, another significant event took place. On June 11th, the Session recommended to the congregation that the rotation system of electing the elders be adopted. A few days later on June 15th, the congregation adopted this recommendation, and since that time the rotation system has been used in this church, though many times the rules have been suspended so that an elder could be reelected to succeed himself.

That Dr. McGaw was held in high esteem by the church is shown by

the following resolution adopted by the Session July 5, 1880.

Whereas — Our beloved pastor, guided as we believe by the Spirit of God, and desirous of a larger field for usefulness in the Master's service, has accepted a call from the Central Presbyterian Church of Rock Island, Illinois.

And Whereas — The pastoral relation between this church and Bro. McGaw having been dissolved by action of Presbytery at his

personal request, therefore —

Resolved — 1. That we yield to the separation of our beloved pastor, Rev. Dr. J. A. P. McGaw with feelings of deep regret and heartfelt sorrow.

Resolved -2. That he has been to us and for us an earnest preacher of the Gospel and a faithful pastor and friend. His cheerful presence has ever been welcome at our firesides, and we pray that his life may be spared that his usefulness and ministrations may increase and that God through his labors may turn many to righteousness.

Resolved -3. That for ourselves and our families, we bear cheerful testimony to the faithfulness he has shown - and the Christian effection manifested to us during his pastorate of eleven and

a half years.

Resolved -4. That all of the members of Session be requested to sign the above resolutions.

Still another contribution of Dr. McGaw should be mentioned at this point. Although the writer has been unable to find in the records any mention of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the organization of this church, there must have been one. In his anniversary sermon, Dr. Harry W. Barr quotes from the semi-centennial sermon preached by Dr. McGaw. Dr. Barr called this sermon "A notable document, an antique of rare value, which should be preserved for future generations."

This writer has made an effort to secure a copy of the Dr. McGaw sermon, but up until the time of this writing, has been unable to locate one.

As has been stated, Dr. McGaw left this church to accept a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Rock Island, Illinois. He must not have remained there very long for he is listed in the General Assembly minutes of 1882, as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Toledo, Ohio. At the dedication service in 1902 a message of congratulations from him was read. At that date, he was in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dr. Woods in 1913 stated that at that time Dr. McGaw was living in Portland, Oregon.

It is interesting to note that on August 13 and 22, 1884, Dr. J. A. P. McGaw of the Presbytery of Maumee, of which Toledo was a part, was

present and, by invitation, served as Moderator of the Session.

Dr. McGaw returned to Urbana to preach on several occasions, and delivered the charge to the congregation at the installation service for Dr. Helwig, October 27, 1891.

JAMES G. PATTERSON

1881-1884

Following Dr. McGaw's resignation, this church was without regular pastoral services until November 1881. It is recorded in the Session minutes of June 23, 1880, that Dr. McGaw had made arrangements for Robert Mateer, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, to supply the pulpit on July 4th, 11th, and 18th. The Session invited a Dr. Sutherland, of Grand Haven, Michigan, to supply the pulpit two Sabbaths at his convenience, but there is no record whether or not Dr. Sutherland did so.

The next entry is dated February 17, 1881, when the Session issued a call for a congregational meeting to be held on February 23rd to elect a pastor. Reverend L. L. Drake of West Liberty was invited to serve as moderator. The congregational meeting was well attended, and a unanimous call was issued to the Reverend Mr. J. C. Ely, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Piqua, Ohio. On March 12th, Mr. Ely met with the Session and at that time informed this church that his congregation at Piqua had refused to release him and that he was obliged to decline the call.

On July 18th, the Session issued a call for a congregational meeting to be held on July 27th to elect a pastor, but there is a note that this meeting

was never held.

Finally, on September 28th, the congregation issued a call to the Rev. Mr. James G. Patterson to become pastor of this church. Dr. Patterson was installed on November 15, 1881, by a committee appointed by the presbytery for this purpose, and consisting of the Reverend W. M. Claybaugh, the Reverend G. L. Kalb, the Reverend L. D. Drake, and the Reverend W. E. Moore. So far as the writer can determine, this is the first time that the names of the Committee on Installation are recorded in the minutes of the Session.

A congregational meeting was held July 20, 1882, to consider the advisability of repairing the church building. A Mr. Gibbs, who had been consulted by the committee, recommended that nothing be done until such time as the congregation be prepared to erect a new building. The committee itself made no recommendation, but expressed the desire that the matter be considered and decided by the congregation; whereupon, the congregation adopted a resolution that a new church be built and that a committee be appointed to consider the matters connected with the execution of the resolution.

More will be written elsewhere concerning the new building, but it is sufficient to say here that plans were changed several times in the more than ten years that elapsed before the building was erected in 1894 and 1895.

At a congregational meeting held on March 18, 1884, Dr. Patterson asked the congregation to concur in his request to presbytery that the pastoral relations be dissolved. One of the reasons he gave for his request was

the failure on the part of the congregation to take steps to provide an adequate house of worship, which he considered essential if the church was to perform the proper service to the community.

The congregation agreed to unite with him in his request to presbytery, and adopted a resolution expressing its appreciation for his loyal and faithful service and conveying its best wishes for his success in his new field of labor. The dissolution took effect on the first of May, 1884.

On October 5, 1884, the Session granted certificates of transfer to Mrs. Patterson and daughter Lavinia to unite with the First Presbyterian Church at Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Patterson is listed in the General Assembly minutes as editor, living in Baltimore in 1885. From 1901 until 1907, he is listed as an evangelist, living in New York City, and from 1917 until 1921, he lived at Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he died on April 24, 1921, at the age of 80.

At the dedication of the new church in 1902, Dr. Patterson, then of New York, delivered an address. Dr. Woods, in his anniversary address in 1913, stated that Dr. Patterson was at that time a member of the Presbytery of

New York, but was retired from the active ministry.

HEBER A. KETCHUM

1885-1891

At a congregational meeting held on November 18, 1884, a call was issued for the pastoral services of the Reverend Mr. Heber A. Ketchum, of the Second Presbyterian Church of Portsmouth. Dr. Ketchum was present, and was invited to serve as Moderator of the Session on December 12, 13, and 14, 1884. He moved to Urbana in time to begin his work here around January 1, 1885, but was not actually installed until April 28th of that year. He served as pastor of this church until the spring of 1891. His resignation was accepted by the congregation on April 27th, and he preached his last sermon here on Sunday, May 31st, after which he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California. The history of the church read by Dr. Woods here in November 1913 states that Dr. Ketchum died "a few months ago," in California.

The congregation's appraisal of Dr. Ketchum's pastorate is found in the

resolutions adopted at the time his resignation was accepted:

"In the government of the church, in the social life of the church, and in every department of its work, his influence has been beneficial. We would recognize with grateful hearts the signal evidence of the presence and blessing of the Great Head of the church during his whole ministry, wherein a large number have been brought to Christ, and the church has received additions continually to its membership, and its spiritual condition improved.

"The revival of the Board of Deacons, according to the laws of the church, which has done much to improve the financial condition of the church, and the organization of the Young People's Society for Christian Endeavor were largely due to Brother Ketchum's counsel, and were among the other practical measures which have

become permanent.

"In parting with him and his family, our loving thoughts will

follow them to their far western home and our prayers ascend to the throne of grace that they may dwell in the sunlight of God's love."

Each year there were lengthy reports to the presbytery by the Session. An interesting entry in one of these statements reporting on the spiritual welfare of the congregation and dated April 11, 1887, is as follows: "In regard to Sabbath observance we are not yet able to see 'Eye to Eye'; some of our people insist upon going to the Post Office on the Sabbath, in spite of the protest of the pastor, and the sense of the Session. If they are conscientious in this, we can only hope that they may soon be convinced of their error and correct it."

Also, detailed entries are made in the Session records of 1890 and 1891 of the trials of two members, who, on different occasions, permitted liquor to be sold in the hotel building which was owned by each of the two men at the different dates mentioned.

On August 22, 1884, the Session extended its thanks to Mrs. Jeannette Neil for the beautiful communion ware donated by her.

In the General Assembly minutes Dr. Ketchum was listed as pastor at Salem, Oregon, from 1898 until 1902, and as being retired there in 1913.

At a meeting of the Session, May 5, 1913, it was reported that Dr. Ketchum had died on April 23rd of that year at Salem, Oregon, and the Clerk of the Session was instructed to write Mrs. Ketchum a letter expressing the sympathy of the Session for her and the family in their hour of bereavement.

JOHN B. HELWIG

1891-1898

After Dr. Ketchum left on May 31, 1891, two congregational meetings were held on July 1st and August 12th for the purpose of calling a pastor, but each time it was decided not to call the minister recommended by the Pulpit Committee.

Then, at a meeting held on September 17, 1891, the committee recommended that the congregation issue a call for the pastoral services of Dr. John B. Helwig of Springfield. Dr. Helwig, who was the third President of Wittenberg College (1874-1882), and who had transferred to the Presbyterian Church from the Wittenberg Synod of the Lutheran Church in the summer of 1891, had preached at this church at least on one occasion after Dr. Ketchum's resignation. The recommendation was accepted and a call was issued to Dr. Helwig. He was installed as pastor, October 27, 1891.

It was during his pastorate that the present church building was erected; the corner stone was laid on Sunday, May 6, 1894. A more complete story of the erection of the new building will be found in a later chapter.

The address delivered by Dr. Woods on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Urbana church in 1913 states that Dr. Helwig was, for a number of years, connected with Wittenberg College, that he was a man of commanding presence and vigorous mind, and that he was very decided in his temperance views. At one time he was a candidate of the Prohibition Party for Governor of Ohio.

It was during his pastorate, on December 2, 1891, that Leander Marmon

was elected Clerk of the Session, in which capacity he served until 1929.

During January 1895, this church participated in a series of evangelistic meetings sponsored by the Ministerial Association, under the leadership of J. Wilbur Chapman. The result of these meetings was the indication of the desire of more than six hundred men, women, and children to turn to Christ.

Dr. Helwig was pastor here until January 16, 1898, when he resigned to accept a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota. On several occasions he was invited to preach at this church during his vacation. In the General Assembly minutes of 1904, he was listed as being in the process of transfer from the Presbytery of Minneapolis to the Presbytery of Bellefontaine. He died in Bellefontaine, July 25, 1904.

This interesting appraisal of Dr. Helwig is taken from resolutions

adopted by the Session following his resignation:

"Deeply impressed with the vast and infinite consequences that depend upon the right presentation of divine truth, all his discourses have shown every evidence of hard study, conscientious preparation, and completeness of finish. Our people have been well and fully instructed, and we believe that as no Word of the Lord, by whomsoever He speaks it, shall ever return to Him void, eternity will reveal rich harvests from the sound seed he has so earnestly

and abundantly sown."

On May 8, 1898, several members of this church who lived in a section called Oaklahoma in the northwest part of Urbana, in the vicinity of what is now Oakland Street, requested the Session for aid in building a chapel in that neighborhood. The matter was referred to a congregational meeting held to consider this request on May 18, 1898, and a committee was appointed to solicit funds and make plans for the chapel, but no mention is made in the records of the work ever being accomplished. We also know that the group was under the leadership of Horace M. Hubbell, one of the elders of this church, and that they attended church in that vicinity for a while.

ROBERT M. DONALDSON

1898-1902

On several occasions while the pulpit was vacant following Dr. Helwig's resignation, the Rev. Robert M. Donaldson, Secretary of the College of Wooster, preached here, and a call for his pastoral services was issued sometime during the summer of 1898. Although no exact date is given for the call, at a meeting of the Session on August 29, 1898, plans were made for notifying the pastor-elect and to invite him to preach for a "Sabbath or two to look over the field for himself." The call was finally placed in his hands at an adjourned meeting of presbytery at Forest, Ohio, October 4, 1898, and he was installed on October 20th.

For his installation service, he composed the following hymn:

CONSECRATION HYMN

Blest is the day when in Thy house we meet;
Happy the hearts before Thy mercy seat;
Hallowed the place where Thou has heard our prayer;
Holy the Friendship — if our Lord is there.

We love Thy church, whose walls before Thee stand, Whose names enrolled are graven on Thy hand.

We seek Thy blessing, while we bow to Thee – God of our Fathers, in humility.

Help us to live as those who love the Lord.

Help us to feed upon Thy sacred Word.

Teach us the Truth that makes Thy people free;

Teach us to know and serve Thee perfectly.

Lead Thou this people all their journey thro',
Be Thou our fire and cloudy Pillar, too;
Our living Stream along the desert way,

Our heavenly Manna, falling day by day.

May reverent faith forever with us dwell;
May fervent hope inspire us to excel;
May all in love and harmony agree,
And may we ever serve Thee fruitfully! Amen.

Adapted to TUNE: ELLERS

Of the circumstances under which he began his pastorate here, Dr. Donaldson, in a letter addressed to Dr. Barr on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the organization of the church held here in 1933, said, "My own pastorate was one of the briefest, covering just four years. It was one of the unexpected experiences of my life. As Secretary of Wooster, I was visiting schools in Urbana and vicinity and was detained over Sunday. Since no minister was present, I was invited to preach. I had no pulpit suit with me, but reluctantly accepted the invitation. After the sermon, Will Given said that any man that had nerve enough to preach in a short coat ought to have nerve enough to be pastor of the Urbana church. Horace Hubbell visited me and told me that the congregation voted to extend a call which I accepted."

It was during Dr. Donaldson's pastorate that the new church was dedicated and the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Presbyterianism in Champaign County was celebrated in May 1902. A more complete description of the dedication and anniversary services will be found later.

Another paragraph in Dr. Donaldson's letter which the writer thinks will be of interest to all who read the history of this church is as follows:

"More recently I am impressed with the fact that we antedated the radio service by several years. The Endeavor Society, which united with the congregation in making out the call for my pastorate, was sympathetic with Miss Jean Inskeep, one of the charter members. She was an invalid for several years, and could not attend church. The Home Telephone agreed to furnish service, so the C.E.'s put a phone at her bedside, and a desk phone stood on the table (near the pulpit) through morning and evening services for two and one-half years. This service was extended to others of our people, and of other denominations, and was greatly appreciated by men and women who had not been able to participate in a church service for several years. I know of no other instance where such service was given, aside from the modern radio. We were indebted to the

Home Telephone Company, and to the Exchange girls for cheerful cooperation."

While on vacation in Portland, Oregon, the pastor wrote a letter to the Session asking that the congregation join with him in requesting presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship existing between himself and the church so that he might be able to accept a call from the Presbyterian Church of Bozman, Montana. The meeting was held on August 27th, and presbytery took action on September 18th. The last meeting of the Session of which Dr. Donaldson was moderator was held on September 21, 1902.

He left Urbana some time between that date and October 1st. According to the minutes of the Session dated June 1, 1925, he preached here on

Sunday, May 24th of that year, coming to Urbana from Columbus.

Dr. Donaldson's father, the Rev. William M. Donaldson, was an ordained Presbyterian minister for fifty-nine years. During this time, he was a home missionary in Pennsylvania and Indiana, and for thirty-nine years, he was pastor at Ossian, Indiana, where Robert was born on September 29,

1860. Two other sons also entered the ministry.

Our Dr. Donaldson was educated at Eldersridge Academy, Pennsylvania, taking his A.B. and M.A. degrees at Wooster University. He graduated from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, in 1888. He was honored with the Doctor of Divinity degree, bestowed upon him by both Wooster University and Occidental College, and with an L.L.D., given by the College of Idaho.

In March 1921, he began a missionary work in Beverly Hills Community Presbyterian Church, the corner-stone of which was laid in April 1924. He retired from the active ministry on July 30, 1928, the date marking the 40th

anniversary of his ordination.

On February 23, 1892, Dr. Donaldson married Jeannie E. Talcott. Much of the material for this sketch has been made available to this writer by Mrs. Donaldson and their daughter, Jannette Donaldson, both of whom still

live in Beverly Hills.

Other pastorates besides those mentioned already in this article, were in Hastings, Minnesota, and Boise, Idaho. He was Field Secretary for the National Board of Home Missions in the Rocky Mountain district, comprising seven western states, and was Field Secretary for two colleges: four years at Wooster, his Alma Mater, and two years at Occidental, in Los Angeles. He was a co-author of the "Handbook to the Hymnal" published in 1935 by the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.

Dr. Donaldson died in Beverly Hills, June 10, 1944, at the age of 83

years.

W. FRANK REBER

1903-1908

At a congregational meeting held on November 2, 1902, Rev. James M. Work of Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, was called to the pulpit of this church. Although there is no record of any reply on the part of Mr. Work, apparently he declined the call, since another meeting was held on December 28, 1902, for the purpose of calling a pastor, at which time Rev. W. Frank Reber of Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania, was invited to become pastor of this church.

He was installed April 22, 1903, but was on the job here earlier, as he is listed in the Session records as having attended meetings of the Session on March 1st and 30th, and it was noted in those minutes that he was pastorelect.

On December 5, 1904, the pastor was instructed to confer with the Ladies Aid Society in regard to the individual communion set purchased by

that organization.

In the minutes of the Session dated August 6, 1906, it was reported that a communication had been received from the Superintendent of the Department of Church and Labor requesting this church to observe the first Sabbath of September in the interest of that cause. It was decided to observe

the day with appropriate services.

Dr. Reber was pastor here until May 30, 1908, when he accepted a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Hutchinson, Kansas. The General Assembly minutes list Dr. Reber as follows: Pastor at Hutchinson, Kansas, 1909; pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, from 1910 to 1917; pastor at Findlay, Ohio, from 1918 to 1923. In 1925 and 1930 he is listed as living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The same is true from 1940-43. He has probably lived there since 1925, though the writer has been unable to examine all the records to determine definitely his location each year. He has been listed as retired, and living in Pittsburgh since 1943.

He visited Urbana and gave an address on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the completion of the present building in 1945, at which time Dr. Charles Hunter was interim pastor while Mr. Hooker was on leave of absence from this church, serving as a Chaplain in the Army during World

War II.

W. DENT ATKINSON

1908-1912

Dr. Atkinson was pastor of this congregation from 1908 until 1912. He came here from Oberlin, Ohio. The call was issued on July 26, 1908, and, although no date for the installation services is found in the records of the church, he is listed as Moderator of the Session, October 31, 1908. On May 6, 1912, the pastor asked the Session to call a congregational meeting to consider his resignation. Such a meeting was held on June 2nd, and the pulpit was declared vacant on the first Sunday in July, the effective date being June 30th.

During his pastorate, there is a record of the installation of a new furnace, and a committee was appointed to confer with the Ladies Aid Society in regard to making an outside entrance to the basement. It is presumed that the work was done at that time, since the committee was given power

to act, and there is such an entrance.

During March 1910, a series of revival services were held, resulting in the addition of 87 new members to the church, 78 of whom were admitted

on profession of faith.

According to the General Assembly minutes, he was at Culbertson, Montana, in 1914 and 1915. In 1917 he was listed as being in the process of transfer to Grove City, Ohio (Presbytery of Columbus). In 1918 and 1919 he was a Y.M.C.A. worker in France. From 1921 until 1926, he was listed as a

member of the Presbytery of Columbus, though his address was given as Davenport, Iowa. From 1928 until 1936 he was listed as pastor at Blauvelt, New York (Presbytery of Hudson). From 1937 until 1940 he was listed on the rolls of the same presbytery, but without a church.

He died at Jeffersonville, New York, August 1, 1940. On the occasion of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of this church, November 9-16, 1913, he brought greetings from the Presbytery of Marion.

WILLIAM J. DEMPSTER

1913-1918

Dr. Dempster was pastor here from 1913 until 1918. Since his wife and two children, William Henry and Martha Elizabeth, were received on certificates of transfer from the Olivet Presbyterian Church of Lima, Ohio, it is assumed by the writer that Dr. Dempster was pastor of that church before coming to Urbana. The call was issued on November 6, 1912. No date is given for his installation, but he is listed as Moderator of the Session, January 6, 1913, and it was at that time his wife and children were received into the church. During his pastorate the number of elders was increased from 12 to 15, and a Board of Junior Deacons was organized.

The 80th anniversary of the organization of the First Presbyterian Church in Urbana as a separate congregation was held November 9-16, 1913. It was during this celebration that Dr. John Woods, former pastor, read the paper on the History of the Church, mentioned several times in this book. The address and a newspaper account of the activities are in the files of the

church, kept in the office.

On May 26, 1918, Dr. Dempster resigned as pastor of the church, but the effective date of the resignation is not given, nor is there any mention of his location after he left Urbana. However, he is listed in the General Assembly minutes as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Crafton, Pennsylvania from 1919 until 1931. He died at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in August 1931. In the Session minutes, dated September 20, 1931, there is a record of the appointment of a committee to draft resolutions on the death of Dr. Dempster.

HARRY WILLIAM BARR

1919-1941

The longest pastorate in the history of this church began on January 21, 1919, when Harry W. Barr was installed, and it continued until July 27, 1941, when Dr. Barr became Superintendent of the Ohio Presbyterian Homes, and moved to Sidney to assume the duties of that office.

bration of the 100th anniversary of the organization of this church, Dr. Barr, In a sermon delivered November 26, 1933, on the occasion of the cele-

speaking of his own pastorate, writes as follows:

"It began just after the close of the World War when the New Era Movement came into being. This movement provided the opportunity for emphasis upon benevolent giving. The record made by the church over a period of years, up until the great depression, is one to be proud of. Thousands of dollars were contributed for benevolent causes as well as for the beautifying of the church plant."

During this period the church not only contributed generously to the general benevolences of the church, but also gave a son, Dr. Charles Pindar, to the National Missions Program, and contributed specifically to the support of Miss Nettie Rupert, who had gone out from this church to missionary work in Japan in 1913.

There can be no doubt that the magnificent achievements of the church



Dr. Harry W. Barr, Pastor 1919-1941 Longest pastorate in the history of the church.

during Dr. Barr's pastorate were due to no small degree to the leadership of a pastor who, himself, had dreamed of a life spent in the overseas work of the church, but who, because of reasons of health, had not been permitted to labor in his chosen field of endeavor. In an autobiographical sketch prepared for the use of this writer, Dr. Barr reveals that during his senior year at Princeton he had made application to the Board of Foreign Missions for appointment to Korea, as a missionary, but that because of health conditions the Board deemed it advisable to refuse the appointment.

Harry W. Barr, son of William and Margaret Barr, was born on a farm in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 3, 1882. He was the ninth child in a family of ten children: four boys and six girls. Of his early life, Dr. Barr writes, "Life moved along in the usual manner on this farm with the emphasis on work." The hope was that, in turn, the children would marry and settle on farms in the near neihborhood. This plan was broken in 1902, when Harry decided to go to

Wooster to take a teacher's training course in the Academy in anticipation of teaching in a country school.

farms in the near neighborhood. This plan was broken in 1902, when Harry decided to go to Wooster to take a teacher's training course in the Academy in anticipation of teaching in a country school.

However, his plans were soon changed, and before the end of the first year, he had decided to enter the missionary service of the church. He completed the course in the Academy in two and a half years, with the honor of salutatorian of the class of 1905.

He received his A.B. degree at Wooster College in 1909, and as a member of the centennial class of Princeton Seminary, received his B.D. degree in 1912. In 1922, the College of the Ozarks at Clarksville, Arkansas, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, and in 1940, it was his great privilege to receive this honor from his Alma Mater, the College of Wooster.

Dr. Barr's first pastorate was at Bradford, Ohio, from 1912 until 1915. On July 11, 1912, he was married to Miss Sarah Beckett Scott of Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

In 1915, he undertook a pioneer work in the outskirts of Columbus, Ohio, which resulted in the organization of two new churches, Oakland Park (now Overbrook) and Crestview.

In his anniversary sermon referred to above, Dr. Barr states, "Perhaps the outstanding event of this pastorate was the ordination by Marion Presbytery of two young men, sons of the church. The occasion will long be remembered, for on that night, with members of presbytery assisting, the pastor placed his right hand on the head of Charles W. Pindar, and his left, on Robert M. Tignor, and with prayer set them aside for the Gospel ministry." This was June 15, 1930.

In 1935, Dr. Barr participated in the ordination of another son of the church, when Zanesville Presbytery ordained and installed Donald P. Doss as pastor of the Woodside Presbyterian Church of Newark, Ohio. All three of these men have testified to this writer that Dr. Barr's influence was one of the chief factors that contributed to their decisions to enter the ministry.

In November 1933, Dr. Barr led the church in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of its organization as a separate congregation.

As has already been stated, Dr. Barr resigned in July 1941 to become Superintendent of the Ohio Presbyterian Homes. At that time, there was only one such institution, the Dorothy Love Home, located near Sidney. Dr. Barr was instrumental in founding a Home at Youngstown, and in laying the groundwork for other expansion which, it is hoped, will take place in the near future. The need for such places for the older people of our Presbyterian Church in Ohio is indeed great. At the present time, two members of this church, Mrs. Phoebe Ann Akers and Miss Carrie Harper, reside at the Dorothy Love Home.

In 1952, Dr. Barr reached the retirement age and resigned as Superintendent, but his relationship with this work continues; he is now serving as Financial Consultant in charge of Investments and Church Support.

Writing of his family, Dr. Barr says, "Five children were born into the Barr family: Harry, Jr., is economics engineer with Battelle Memorial Research Institute, Columbus, Ohio; William Scott died at the age of 16 months; Lois Elizabeth is instructor at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Ga.; Frances Clara is instructor in surgical nursing at Ohio State University Nursing College; David Arthur is a junior in the Medical College at Ohio State University; two grandsons, Harry William III, and Robert Wilkins complete the family circle." Lois Elizabeth has recently completed her work for a Ph.D. degree in English at the University of North Carolina.

Though the Barr family has been gone from Urbana now more than twelve years, their influence continues as a very wholesome factor in the life of the church and community. This writer appreciates the opportunity of serving in the place filled so well during the long years of the past by men like Dr. Barr, and the many others who have been the pastors of this church.

CHARLES A. HUNTER

1943-1946

While Mr. Hooker was on leave of absence, serving as a Chaplain in the Army during the Second World War, Dr. Charles A. Hunter was interim

pastor of the Urbana church.

Charles Albert Hunter, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hunter, was born in Jackson County, Ohio, on October 31, 1869. He attended a country school and began teaching before he was eighteen. After teaching a number of years, he enrolled at the National Normal University, at Lebanon, Ohio, receiving his B.S. degree there in 1891. After serving some time as Superintendent of Schools, he entered the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, but at the end of the first year, he transferred to Lane Seminary at Cincinnati, from which he received his B.D. degree in 1898. He was ordained to the ministry by the Presbytery of Dayton, at Dayton, Ohio, in May 1898.

His first pastorate was at Osborne, now Fairborn, Ohio (1898-1903).



Dr. Charles A. Hunter Interim Pastor 1943-1946

During the years that followed, he held pastorates at Plain City (1903-1910), Eaton (1910-1917), Barberton (1917-1929), Shadyside, in Belmont County (1929-1931', and Worthington, from 1931 until his retirement in 1938.

In spite of the fact that Dr. Hunter has been retired these fifteen years, he has been very active. During this period he has supplied vacant pulpits and served as interim pastor of several others. There are very few Sundays on which Dr. Hunter does not preach.

During the time he served at Urbana, Dr. Hunter came here from Columbus each Sunday, in all kinds of weather. He and Mrs. Hunter endeared themselves to the people, who still are glad when there is the opportunity for Dr. Hunter to preach, as he does once or twice each year.

In 1920, the College of Oskaloosa, at Oskaloosa, Iowa, honored him with the

degree of Doctor of Divinity.

From 1949 to 1951, Dr. Hunter was the Chaplain of the House of Representatives for the 99th Session of the

Ohio Legislature.

From 1949 to 1951, Dr. Hunter was the Chaplain of the House of Rep-

resentatives for the 99th Session of the Ohio Legislature.

In 1898, he was married to Miss Stella Hayes, at Jackson, Ohio. They had two sons, Hays, of Lakewood, Ohio, and Charles A., Jr., of Gary, Indiana, and one daughter, Mrs. Harold Seymour, of Cleveland. Mrs. Hunter died in 1922.

In 1925, Dr. Hunter was married to Mrs. Essie W. Patterson, and since his retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Hunter have been living at 307 West 10th Avenue, in Columbus.

MALCOLM D. HOOKER

1942-

The present pastorate dates back to the installation of this writer, January 18, 1942, although it was interrupted by three years of service as Chaplain in the U.S. Army during World War II (May 1943-May 1946).

The oldest of seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Claude Hooker.



Chaplain (Capt.) Malcolm D. Hooker World War II 1943-1946

the writer was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 18, 1909. He attended the public schools of Nashville. and received his A.B. and B.D. degrees in 1935 and 1937, respectively, from Vanderbilt University.

During college and seminary days he was student pastor of the Tusculum Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1927-1937) and the Goodlettsville Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1932-1936), both near Nashville: of the Pleasant Mound Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1929-1935), near Columbia, Tennessee; of the Rock Vale Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1935-1936), near Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Greenville, Kentucky (1936-1937).

Following the completion of his seminary work, the writer was associated with the International Harvester Company of Nashville and Chattanooga. Tennessee, doing office and sales work from April 1937 until August 1938, and with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at Nashville, from November

1938 until September 1939, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Radnor-Thompson Presbyterian Church (Old Stone) near Delaware, Ohio.

In Delaware, he met Miss Grace Louise Lambert with whom he was united in marriage December 8, 1940. They have one son, William Jonathan,

born October 4, 1947.

While on leave of absence from the Urbana church as Chaplain in the Army during World War II, he served with the 1138th Engineer Combat Group and the 1145th Engineer Combat Group at Camp Cooke, California; the 190th Ordnance Battalion at Camp Cocke and Fort Ord, California; and on October 15, 1944, sailed from San Francisco for overseas assignment. He was on temporary duty in New Guinea and served with the 27th Engineer Construction Battalion on Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, and on Honshu Island, in Japan.

He returned to the U. S. in April 1946, and at the end of his terminal leave, resumed his work as pastor at Urbana. During the interval of three years, Dr. Charles A. Hunter of Columbus, Ohio, served as interim pastor, and Mrs. Hooker was the Director of Religious Education, and the church secretary.

Following the return of the pastor, the church raised the full quota of \$6,424.00 assigned by the presbytery for the Restoration Fund of \$27,000,000 which the Presbyterian Church undertook to raise to restore churches in war-torn parts of the world, and to rebuild seminaries in this country.

The repair and remodeling program, which is being completed as this is being written, got under way by a study of the needs of the church, begun

in 1949. It will be described in another chapter of this book.

From 1946 until 1951, he was Chairman of the Committee on Christian Education of Marion Presbytery, during which time he was a member of the Committee on Christian Education of the Synod of Ohio. He was Moderator of Marion Presbytery one year, and Permanent Clerk for several years. From 1949 until 1952, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Westminster Foundations of Ohio. He was convocation and vesper speaker at various summer conferences for young people, held at Wooster. At the present time, he is the Stated Clerk of Marion Presbytery and a member of the Unit of City and Industrial Work of the Synod of Ohio.

Mr. Hooker was President of the Urbana Ministerial Association for several years, the Dean of the Community Vacation Church School of Urbana since 1947, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Champaign County Community Chest in 1946, 1947, 1950, and 1953. In 1946 and 1950,

he was Chairman of the Community Chest Board.

MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES FROM CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

According to information available to this writer, the Urbana and Buck Creek churches have furnished six ministers to the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. One foreign missionary, Miss Nettie Rupert, has also gone out from the Urbana church. Biographical sketches of these seven people will follow in this chapter.

JAMES S. McDONALD

The name of James S. McDonald appears in the General Assembly minutes of 1862. At that time he was listed as a licentiate, living at Urbana.

According to Beer's History of Champaign County, Hugh McDonald, who was an elder in the Urbana church from the time of its organization in 1833 until his death, had one son who was a Presbyterian minister. Therefore, the writer is confident that the subject of this sketch is the son of the

said Hugh McDonald. He was one of eight children.

The entire ministry of James S. McDonald was in California, and he was listed as pastor and missionary at Sacramento from 1865 to 1869; at Eureka, 1872 to 1874; at San Rafael from 1875 to 1891; at Dixon, 1895; at Oakland, 1898 to 1902; and at Corte Madera from 1906 until the time of his death on May 13, 1915, at the age of 80. It is the understanding of this writer that he was married to the sister of J. S. Todd (subject of the next sketch) and David William Todd, the father of Mrs. C. G. Glessner, who is still a member of the Urbana church.

J. S. TODD

James S. Todd went into the ministry from the Buck Creek church. In the General Assembly minutes of 1867, he is listed as a licentiate, and Urbana was given as his address. He, like Dr. McDonald, spent his entire ministry in California. The General Assembly minutes listed him at Arcata, California, from 1870 to 1876, and again, from 1881 to 1908. From 1877 until 1880, his address was Healdsburg, California, where he was pastor-elect. At the time of his death, June 8, 1908, in Arcata, California, at the age of 67, he was a member of the Presbytery of Benicia. He was an uncle of Mrs. C. G. Glessner, mentioned in the sketch above.

WILLIAM HOUSTON

The second son of the Urbana church to go into the ministry was William Houston. He was born November 8, 1867, the son of Frank and Nannie T. Houston. His sister, Mrs. C. H. Duncan of Columbus, has informed this writer that Dr. Houston attended the Urbana public schools, received his B.A. degree from Wooster College in 1890, and his B.D. degree from the Allegheny Theological Seminary in 1893. His first pastorate was at Mingo Junction, Ohio.

From 1899 until 1910, he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Mt. Gilead, and from 1910 until the time of his death, he was the first student

pastor at Ohio State University.

The records of the Urbana church reveal that he was received into the membership of this church on August 29, 1883, and was transferred to the

First Presbyterian Church of Wooster, Ohio, on January 7, 1889. On the occasion of the dedication of the present church building and of the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the establishment of Presbyterianism in Champaign County in 1902, Dr. Houston, who was then living in Mt. Gilead, spoke upon the subject "Young People and The Kingdom." At the celebration of the eightieth anniversary, in 1913, Reverend William Houston of Columbus spoke in the evening. His remarks were chiefly of a reminiscent nature. In 1916 his Alma Mater, the College of Wooster, awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. According to his sister, he published two books: "Christmas Sermons" and "The Church at the University." Dr. Houston died in Columbus, Ohio, July 17, 1927.

NETTIE L. RUPERT

The only daughter of Champaign County Presbyterianism to enter the missionary work of the church is Miss Nettie Rupert, who, since her retirement in 1940, has lived with her brother, Frank, at Westville, near Urbana. Miss Rupert is an active member of this church, and at the request of this writer, has supplied the following autobiographical sketch:

"Nettie Lorene Rupert, missionary to Japan, 1913-1940, was a child of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Ohio. She was baptized in infancy, June 9, 1883, by the Rev. J. G. Patterson and was received into the membership of the church on confession of faith, June 5, 1897, by the Rev. John B. Helwig, D.D.

"Miss Rupert was born October 2, 1882, in Champaign County, Ohio, near Westville, to William Hamilton and Elmira Berryhill Rupert. She attended the public schools of Westville and graduated from the Academy of Urbana University in June, 1902. She received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wooster (later called the College of Wooster) in June, 1905, and the degree of Master of Arts from the same institution in June, 1906.

"Soon after her graduation from college, Miss Rupert was engaged in educational missionary work among the mountaineers of western North Carolina under the auspices of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. Later she became a member of the faculty of Greensboro College for Women

at Greensboro, N. C., where she taught three years, 1910-1913.

"In August, 1913, Miss Rupert sailed through the Golden Gate at San Francisco for Japan under the auspices of the Women's Board of Missions of the Interior (Congregational). After spending two years in the Japanese Language School in Tokyo, she came to Kobe where she was engaged in educational missionary work five years in Kobe College. While teaching in the college, she saw the great need and became interested in helping to establish a Christian center for the large Chinese community of Kobe. The work prospered, and she was later chosen as supervisor. She assisted in organizing the first Chinese church in Kobe. When returning to Japan after her first furlough, she devoted a portion of her time to the Chinese work. She accepted a position as English teacher in the Kobe Girls Commercial School, which is a large municipal school of six hundred students of high school age. She was connected with this school eighteen years, 1922-1940. It was her rare privilege to be associated with and to labor for the nationals of the two leading countries of the Far East.

"Miss Rupert's International English Bible Class was unique, being com-

posed of almost an equal number of Japanese and Chinese young men. Occasionally one or more Korean youth attended. It was a cause for gratitude to God that the Japanese and Chinese members of the class continued to meet every Sabbath afternoon for over three years to study the Word of God while their respective countries were at war. From time to time we bade farewell to many of these splendid Japanese young men who were summoned to the service of their country. Although reduced in numbers, the Bible Class continued to witness that in Christ there are no barriers, since all believers are ONE in Him.

"During World War II, the Kobe Mission for Chinese suffered greatly, and its building was destroyed in the bombing of Kobe, in 1945. Since then, the Presbyterian Church in the United States through its Department of Work Among Overseas Chinese has restored the work by transferring missionaries from China. Under the supervision of the Rev. W. C. McLauchlin, director, and his staff, a three-story reinforced concrete building has been erected in the heart of the city as a Chinese Work Center for Kobe and Osaka. The mission hopes to establish a Bible Training School, so that, when the Bamboo Curtain is lifted, Christian workers may be prepared to enter the China field."

In 1930, Miss Rupert presented to the church a painting entitled, "Sunrise View of Mount Fuji from Lake Shoji, Japan." This painting now hangs in the church parlor. Believing that it may be of interest to the reader the writer is quoting Miss Rupert's description of the process by which this painting was made. The description is as follows: "This is a painting of a sunrise view of Mount Fuji from beautiful Lake Shoji, by a leading Japanese artist. It is a cut velvet picture and the canvas is woven of silk.

"The woof and warp are of the finest silk thread. Fine copper wire is put with the warp when the fabric is woven. Then the artist paints his picture on the silk fabric of which his canvas is made. When the artist wants a velvet effect, he cuts some of the threads. After this is done, all the wires

are drawn out of the fabric. Thus the picture is completed."
Several years ago the Caroline Conyers Guild presented Miss Rupert an Honorary Membership in the Board of Foreign Missions.

CHARLES W. PINDAR

The only representative of the Urbana church now active in the Missionary work of the Presbyterian Church is Charles W. Pindar, D.D., who, since 1950, has been the Director of the Unit of City and Industrial Work of the Synod of Ohio.

Dr. Pindar, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Pindar, was born in Urbana, September 17, 1905. The records of the church show that he was received into the membership of the church on profession of faith April 8, 1917. He has told this writer that he was baptized here in 1910 by Dr. Dempster.

He was graduated from the Urbana High School in 1923; in 1927 he received his A.B. degree from the College of Wooster, and his B.D. from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1930. On June 15, 1930, he and Robert Tignor were ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Presbytery of Marion, meeting in the Urbana church.

Dr. Pindar has stated that it was while attending a Young People's Conference at Wooster in the summer of 1922 that he first "felt the call" to the ministry. Each summer from 1925 through 1929 he worked in the Vacation Bible School program in southeastern Ohio, sponsored by the Unit of City and Industrial Work and under the leadership of Dr. John Sharpe, who had begun this significant work years before. Also during his student days at McCormick he was student pastor or worker at the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, the first year with Dr. Stone and the second with Dr. Anderson, the present pastor of the church. During the first semester of his senior year he preached at a church in Wisconsin, and in the second semester at Pekin, Illinois.

For five years after his ordination he was pastor at Dillonvale and Piney Fork, two mining towns in southeastern Ohio. From 1935 until 1950 he was superintendent of the West Virginia Mountain Project under the Board of

National Missions and located at Colcord, West Virginia.

In 1950 he came back to Ohio to succeed Dr. Sharpe upon his retirement, and since that time he has lived at Marietta. From March until October 1950

he carried on the work in both Ohio and West Virginia.

In 1937, he was married to Miss Frances Ball. A daughter of a missionary doctor and his wife, Mrs. Pindar was born in China. They have three sons, William H. (aged 14), Robert B. (aged 12), and John F. (aged 9).

On June 13, 1949, he was awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity

Degree by his Alma Mater, the College of Wooster.

Those of us at the Urbana church have been honored to have a small part in the support of the work in which Dr. Pindar has been engaged. That he has a warm place in his heart for this church is shown by the following paragraphs written by him in response to a request by this writer for information concerning his life.

"All along the paths of memory there are those people and experiences which call forth from my heart a deep response of gratitude. I have often said that if there was a spot on this earth holy unto me in a particular manner, it would be the place in front of the pulpit

in the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Ohio.

"It was in front of this pulpit that I was baptized as a boy of five, made my confession of faith in God and Christ as a lad of twelve, knelt at the age of twenty-five to be ordained as a minister of the Gospel, stood there years later to perform the marriage service for my sister and her husband, stood there with Frances and our son, John, for his baptism, just as my Mother stood with me for mine, and then to stand there also to baptize in later years my own sister when she and her husband united with the church on the confession of their faith and had their daughter baptized.

"Amid all of this blessed experience to come into my life at this particular place in front of the pulpit there were also the many Christian individuals who had blessed my life by their teaching and living, many of whom I knew as members and fellow wor-

shippers in the life of the Urbana church."

The writer knew both of his parents and also his sister, Mrs. Robert Peters, who now lives in Springfield. After Charles had baptized his sister, Mary, and her daughter, it was the privilege of this writer, as pastor of this church, to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Peters into the fellowship of the church that had given Charles to the ministry.

As a member of Synod's Unit of City and Industrial Work, it has also been the privilege of this writer to be associated with Dr. Pindar since his return to Ohio.

ROBERT TIGNOR

At what Dr. Barr has called the outstanding event of his pastorate, on June 15, 1930, two sons of the church were ordained to the ministry. The story of one of these young men is told in the previous sketch, while the other is related here.

Robert M. Tignor, the son of Clifford E. and Bertha Ida Tignor, was born at Groveton, N. H., on May 18, 1905. His family moved to Urbana about 1914.

Dr. Tignor, like Dr. Pindar, united with this church on profession of faith April 8, 1917. He attended the Urbana public schools, graduating from Urbana High School in 1923. He received his A.B. degree from the College of Wooster in 1927, his B.D. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1930, and the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology from Temple University in 1938.

From 1930 until 1937, he was pastor at Elkins Park, and since 1937 has been at the Yeadon Church, both of which are in the Presbytery of Philadelphia. During his present pastorate, the membership of the church has increased from 385 to 1050, the budget for current expenses has been quadrupled, and the benevolence budget has increased to the point where it is now eight times the amount given for these causes when Dr. Tignor went to Yeadon in 1937.

While at Princeton he was married to Miss Martha Stalter of Upper Sandusky, Ohio. They have five children, three boys and two girls. The oldest child, Robert Lee, is now at the College of Wooster, preparing to enter the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. The other children, Richard, Joan, Judy, and John Paul are at home.

Dr. Tignor's mother, one brother, Paul, and three sisters, Mrs. Ralph McInturff, Mrs. Gaylord Beck, and Mrs. Carl Mattox, live in Urbana, and are members of this church. One other brother, Raymond Arthur, is in Toledo, and the other sister, Mrs. Charles Beutner, lives in Cleveland.

In writing of his experiences Dr. Tignor states, "The influence of the Urbana Church has been decisive. Dr. Harry Barr has exerted the greatest influence. I owe more to them than anyone I know."

DONALD P. DOSS

The most recent contribution of the Urbana church to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, Donald Prince Doss, was born in St. Paris, Ohio, January 24, 1909. His family moved to Urbana about 1925. The records of the church show that he was received into its membership by certificate of transfer on November 3, 1926.

He attended the public schools of Urbana, graduated from high school here, went under the care of the Presbytery of Marion, April 15, 1929, as a candidate for the ministry, received his A.B. degree from the College of

Wooster in 1932, and his B.D. from Princeton in 1935.

Following his graduation from Princeton, he was ordained and installed as pastor of the Woodside Church of Newark, Ohio, where he served for two

years. From 1937 until 1944 he was pastor at Granville, Ohio, and has been

located at Newcomerstown since leaving Granville.

During his second year at Princeton he was married to Miss Eleanor Lichti of Urbana. Mrs. Doss has been of great assistance to her husband, not only in the home, but in the work of the church, and can be as truly considered a daughter of the church as if she had entered the ministry or missionary service in her own right. They have four children: David, who is a freshman at Case; Jeannie, who is married; Peter; and Duane.

Donald is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Doss. His mother died several years ago. His father has since remarried and lives in Urbana. He has two

brothers, John and Thomas, and one sister, Mrs. Robert Jones.

CHARLES WOOD

Although never connected with the church in an official manner, Rev. Charles Wood should be mentioned here because he lived in Urbana for many years. The son of Seeley Wood and his wife, Nancy Burnett Wood, he was born in Cincinnati, April 19, 1845. He received his B.D. degree at Princeton.

He had several churches, the last of which was at Richwood, Ohio. While there, an accident resulted in an injury to his spine that left him an invalid the rest of his life. In Urbana he lived on a farm that is now part of the property of the Champaign County Children's Home. Later he moved into town, and it was here he died November 23, 1913. He was an uncle of Miss Ella Wood who now lives in Urbana and is active in this church.

JOHN M. BOAL

So far as this writer knows, there is only one other minister, not already mentioned, who was associated with the church here, except for occasional

visits. He is John M. Boal.

In his letter to Dr. Barr in 1933, Dr. Donaldson stated that he had "personal acquaintance with all pastors from the time of John Mills Boal whose work began in 1865." However, this writer has not been able to find Mr. Boal mentioned in any of the church records or General Assembly min-

utes either as a pastor here or as a son of the church.

Nevertheless, he is listed in the General Assembly minutes as living in Urbana from 1871 until 1878, but all that time he was without a charge. He might have been related to one of the agencies or boards of the church as he is listed an an "agent" in 1871 and again in 1877. In 1879, he was the stated supply at the Olivesburg Church at Wooster, Ohio. He was retired, living in Los Angeles, California, from 1902 until 1906. He died in Los Angeles, July 15, 1906.

PRESBYTERIAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN URBANA

On March 10, 1898, the Urbana Citizen published an Extra of 32 pages describing places of historical interest in Urbana. From this publication and from several other sources including the History of the Presbyterian Church in Bellefontaine, Ohio, Beer's History, and Middleton's History, it is learned that the Presbyterians in Urbana began to meet for worship about 1813 or 1814. Before that, we are told that some of them attended Buck Creek, while others went to the Presbyterian Church of Mac-A-Cheek.

Before the erection of the meeting house in Urbana (1828), the congregation met for preaching at several different places. According to the best information available, they met in an old log school house on Locust Street. a room over the jail which stood on the northwest corner of East Market and South Locust, and in the old Court House, which stood in the middle of the square. The old records of the county commissioners reveal that this was erected in 1817. The first subscription for the first regular meeting house to be erected by the Presbyterians in Urbana was dated July 16, 1828. This house was made of brick and stood on the northwest corner of North Main and West Court Streets and faced Court Street. This lot was later used for the Court House. Although it was occupied by the congregation for a while, it was never fully completed, and was wrecked by the fearful tornado which hit Urbana on March 22, 1830. Antrim's "History of Champaign and Logan Counties" published in 1872 in describing this tornado says, ". . . taking up a hip-roofed, steepled brick Presbyterian Church on the present site of the Court House, crumbling it to its foundations, carrying the steeple and other timbers long distances, some of which struck what is now known as the Hamilton House" (across Main Street and about one-half block east on the north side of East Court Street).

We are told that such men as Messrs. Ward, McBeth, Bell, Magrew, Fyffe, Vance, and McCoid took an active part in erecting this building.

Almost immediately, efforts were made to raise money for the erection of a second building. Dr. Barr in his anniversary sermon says, "The subscriptions for this purpose bear the date of June 29, 1830. The highest amount subscribed, which was large for that time, was \$150.00, while the lowest was \$2.12. One subscription was for \$10.00, payable in broadcloth. The leading spirit in the early church was William Ward, who contributed money and provided timber from his own farm for the new building. Then he advanced money and used his credit to borrow more money for the completion of the building. A debt of gratitude is due William Ward for his untiring efforts for the church. As Dr. McGaw has said, 'To his energy and liberality more than to those of any other single individual the church was indebted for its first two buildings.'

Others who were active in the erection of the second house were such men as Messrs. John Ward, McCoid, Helmick, Hunt, McBeth, Luse, Fysfe,

Vance, Magrew, Bell, McDonald, and others.

An interesting entry in the records of the county commissioners reveals that in 1835 the county purchased the land north from Court Street to the site of the present Masonic Temple (present Court House lot) for \$550.00, and that there is a provision in the deed that states that there will always

be an alley between the Court House and the Presbyterian Church. We do not know from whom the purchase was made, but it is assumed that it was from the Presbyterians, since their first house of worship stood there.

We are told that the second house was made of brick and that it was more pretentious than the first. Middleton's History of Champaign County states that it was thirty-six feet wide and forty-five feet long. Although this writer has been unable to obtain an exact description of the building, the best information available states that it was very much after the style of the old Methodist building on the northwest corner of Locust and Court Streets. Beer's History of Champaign County has a comprehensive description of the Methodist Church, and it, too, states that the Presbyterian Church was very similar. The description is as follows: "The platform on which the preacher sat was high and approached by a flight of winding stairs on each side, and the pulpit for use of the minister was a narrow semi-circular deck. All carpenter and cabinet work was made by hand, and the doors and lintels. still to be seen, give evidence of the painstaking and general finish of the work, though the pulpit presented the most elaborate workmanship. The pews were long wooden benches, with backs nearly perpendicular, uncushioned and uncomfortable, and were entered by two aisles running through the body of the building. A narrow anteroom across the south end shut off the audience room, and on either side, a stairway led to a gallery which extended on three sides of the house. Against the walls and to each of the pillars that supported the gallery were affixed or hung on a nail a tin candlestick or socket, with a tin back, about four inches broad by eight or ten inches long, the latter intended probably to perform the double duty of reflection and guard against fire. As 'reflectors' they were not a continued success. The house was lighted by tallow candles — the ordinary 'dip' of that time making ten to the pound, the sexton making his regular rounds to 'snuff' the wicks of the dimly-burning lights. Carpets down the aisle or around the chancels were not thought of. As a rule, the older men chewed tobacco. and wooden boxes filled with saw-dust for spitoons were provided for, or perhaps furnished by, the more incorrigible users of the weed. Not only the members of the church and the more devout, but usually all, kneeled during prayers, and to this perhaps, taken in connection with tobacco, more than any other reason, is due the custom of men and women occupying different pews, the women usually occupying the central slip and the men the side pews. At this day we wonder how our fathers and grandfathers were able to read by the light of tallow candles, but, if the sexton did his duty in keeping the 'dips' well snuffed, the candles seem to have answered their purpose."

Whether this is an accurate description of the second church building erected by the Presbyterians, we do not know, but as has been stated, several sources have said that the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of that period were similar.

From the various histories of Champaign County reviewed by the writer, as well as from Dr. Barr's anniversary sermon, we learn that the second building stood until it was torn down in 1853 to make room for the third edifice, but, strange as it may seem, the writer can find no reference to the erection of this building in the old minutes of the Session of that day. A biographical sketch of Dr. Edwin B. Raffensberger, pastor here from 1852

until 1854, that appears in the History of the Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine, states that it was during Dr. Raffensberger's pastorate at Urbana that a new church edifice was built and dedicated. This church stood until it was torn down to make room for the present structure, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1894. Pictures of both the interior and exterior of this

building are included in this book.

It was not long, however, until mention is made in the minutes of the Session and of the congregation concerning repairs that needed to be made. Suggestions and plans of various kinds were presented from time to time. In his farewell sermon, delivered on June 27, 1880, Dr. McGaw suggested that the church should rebuild or enlarge, and advised the ladies not to spend "much of their hardly won accumulation on the house as it is." A committee reporting to a congregational meeting on June 22, 1881, spoke of the church being "dilapidated from the roof down to the fence." Following this report, the Trustees were instructed to "prepare a schedule of all necessary repairs, specifying the probable expense of each and submit their report at a meeting of the congregation to be called as soon as practical, and that they be authorized to employ such aid and advice as may be necessary to make a complete report." The Trustees in their report submitted on August 30, 1881, recommended a repair program as follows:

| Slate Roof | \$336.00 | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------|-----|
| Sheeting for same | 164.00 | 500.00 | |
| Fresco | | 400.00 | |
| Stained Glass in place | | 500.00 | |
| Sash | | 200,00 | |
| Painting Building | | 200.00 | |
| Carpet laid | | 360.00 | |
| Repairing Doors | | 50.00 | |
| Repairs to chimneys | | 125.00 | |
| Out House | | 50.00 | |
| Repairing Tower | | 50.00 | |
| Fencing | | 50.00 | |
| Hitching Posts | | 15.00 | |
| Lightning Rods | | 35.00 | |
| Water Motor and c | | 260.00 | |
| Seats for Infants' Cl. Room | | 35.00 | |
| Repairing Organ | | 300.00 | |
| TOTAL | | | \$3 |
| 75 | . 1 | Ø500 00 | |

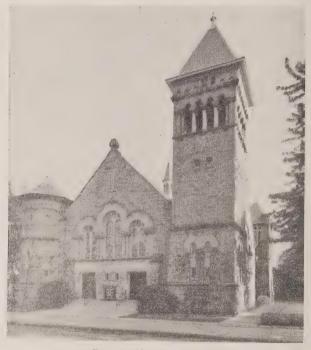
\$3,130.00

Extra — Removing seats according to plan presented. \$500.00 New seats from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00.

A committee was appointed to solicit funds, but it is not likely that the repairs were made. At any rate on July 20, 1882, it was voted to build a new church. Again on August 21, 1884, a repair program almost identical to that one proposed in 1881 was recommended. On April 5, 1886, it was decided to do certain repairs similar to the ones mentioned in 1881 and 1884, and also to erect an addition to the west side, the same to be 19' x 30' and stone and brick. This addition was to cost \$1,375.00 and the whole program, about \$7,000.00. This plan was adopted and again a committee was appointed to solicit funds. Since by June 21, 1886, only ninety-one subscribers had pledged a mere \$2,872.00, this plan was abandoned.

At various times through these years, reports of various organizations. especially the church school, spoke of the need for additional space. For instance, the church school report of January 2, 1893, is as follows: "We are greatly in need of several class rooms, especially for the Bible Class, the Young Men's Class, and a class room for young ladies. The infant and primary rooms are entirely too small and the already crowded Primary Class is occupying the kitchen."

A committee reported on the subject at a congregational meeting on April 16, 1893, and recommended that a new church be erected, and that a committee be named to solicit subscriptions for a new church to cost from \$20,000 to \$25,000. This report was adopted without a single negative vote, and Major Thomas McConnell was appointed chairman of the soliciting committee. At a meeting held on April 19th, the words "provided the sum of \$20,000 be subscribed" were added to the original resolution.



Present Church Building Erected 1894

Picture taken after the installation of bulletin board and railings in 1950.

Reports were made by the committee on May 14th and May 28th, but he latter report showed that only \$17,425.00 had been subscribed. However, in effort to raise the balance of \$2,575 at that meeting was successful, so a meeting was called for May 31st, at which time a building committee and an advisory committee were appointed, and the Trustees instructed to arrange for a place of worship. The Building Committee consisted of Thomas

McConnell (Chairman), M. H. Crane, C. F. Glessner, O. Noble, and John S. Kirby. The advisory committee was composed of the following: Dr. J. B. Helwig, A. M. Glessner, S. L. Robinson, John H. Young, John Duncan, Robert Sanders, W. J. W. Rawlings, Mrs. Frank Houston, Mrs. W. S. Given, Mrs. Ella Spain, Seeley Wood, George A. Weaver, D. B. McDonald, Robert Pannells, George H. Humphreys, H. M. Hubbell, T. S. Binkard, C. C. Creager, Mrs. T. C. Berry, and Mrs. Joel Read.

On July 19th, the Building Committee was authorized to employ Yost and Packard as architects. On December 17th, bids ranging from \$25,709 to \$36,300 were opened. On December 20th, the bid of Mr. Karg of Fostoria was accepted and the committee authorized to proceed with the work as soon as a contract could be closed. Mr. Karg's bid of \$25,709 was for a stone church with the back part of brick. The architects had estimated that a church made entirely of brick would cost \$1,512 less than one of stone. Other items such as heating, seating, and lights brought the total to \$31,000.

On April 18, 1894, the committee asked the congregation to consider the advisability of making the entire east wall of stone instead of having part of it of brick, at a cost of \$200.00 additional. It was decided to do this if money could be raised.

During the construction of the new building, all meetings of the church were held in the G.A.R. Hall.

The corner-stone of this church was laid at a service held at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 6, 1894. Various ministers of the city participated. Mr. C. T. Jamieson read a brief history of the church, and Dr. Helwig delivered an address. The following is a list of the contents of the box laid in the corner-stone.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH URBANA, OHIO

Contents of Corner Stone Laid Sunday, May 6, 1894

Box in Corner Stone contains the following:

Holy Bible Confession of Faith

Church Manual

Names of Officers and Members of the Church, Sunday School, Young People's Sunday Christian Endeavor, Junior Society Young People's Sunday Christian Endeavor

Women's Missionary Society
Mission Band Handfull of Corn
The Kings Daughters
Ladies Society
Names of Soliciting Committee
Names of Building Committee
Names of Advisory Committee
Architects and Contractor
Copies of Herald and Presbyter

Copies of Interior

Copies of New York Observer

Copies of Daily Times Citizen

Copies of Citizen and Gazette Copies of Champaign Democrat

Copies of Westminster Sabbath School Helps

Copies of Sunday School Times Copies of Program of Service

Copies of Dedicatory Address

Copies of Catalogue of Princeton Theological Seminary

Copies of Union Signal

Copies of Ladies Library Paper

Copies of Christian Steward

Copies of Bible Society Record

Copies of Miscellaneous Tracts and Papers

From time to time the committee announced that it did not have sufficient funds to pay the bills. On July 4, 1894, the Trustees were authorized to borrow \$10,000 and to place a mortgage on the church property, and on January 31, 1895, they were instructed to borrow enough to pay all claims.

On May 7, 1895, it was reported that Mr. Joseph Vance gave the design for the Pulpit; Messrs. E. B. and W. R. Patrick, the Communion Table; Mrs. Given, the linen communion set; and Miss Martha Cowan, a beautiful Pulpit Bible. It is the understanding of this writer that the carving on the Pulpit and the Communion Table was done by Mrs. Louise Kirby Murphy. On May 12th, resolutions expressing the appreciation of the congregation to the committee and others were adopted, and the committee was discharged. Dedication services were set for Sunday, May 5, 1895. Programs were printed but, due to the fact that an indebtedness remained unpaid, the dedication was postponed.

It was not until 1902 that the debt was finally paid, and then only after a considerable struggle to raise the money. The women were especially active in this struggle and to them much credit must be given for gradually reducing the indebtedness so that the cost of the building was paid by 1902. An entry in the minutes of the Session, dated May 4, 1902, which gives account of the mortgage burning and dedication services and the celebration of the Centennial of Presbyterianism in Champaign County, is as follows:

"On Sabbath May 4, 1902, the new church building was dedicated. The church was built in 1894 at a cost of \$34,000, and first occupied for service Sabbath, May 5, 1895. There still remained an indebtedness of \$13,000. A mortgage for that amount was placed on the property, which has been reduced year by year. The 6th of January 1902 saw the last dollar paid and the mortgage cancelled: Sabbath. May 4th, was fixed by the Session as Dedication Day.

"Preceding the sermon, Church Treasurer W. E. Berry, read a financial statement of the cost of the church, and then, in the presence of the large audience assembled, burned the mortgage, while the congregation sang 'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.' The sermon was preached by Rev. Sylvester F. Scovel, ex-President of the University of Wooster, and then came the dedicatory service led by the pastor, Rev. R. M. Donaldson. At 3:00 P.M., a union

service was held with an address, 'Fraternal Greetings From City Churches,' by Rev. E. H. Cherington of Grace M. E. Church. An address by Rev. James G. Patterson, D.D., of New York City, a former pastor, and an address on 'The World's Evangelization' by

Rev. S. F. Scovel, D.D., followed.

"On Monday, May 5, the Centennial of Presbyterianism in Champaign County was celebrated by this and the Buck Creek Church. The program included reading of congratulation messages, dinner and reunion in the church parlors, introductory chapter of history covering the period from 1802 to 1822, as prepared by Rev. John Brich in 1822, history of Buck Creek Church by Mrs. Elizabeth Hume, history of Urbana Church by Judge David W. Todd, its Women's Missionary Societies by Mrs. M. H. Crane, its Bible School by Mrs. Mary Noble Rock, its Christian Endeavor Society by H. M. Hubbell, its Ladies Aid Society by Mrs. W. S. Given, 'The Family and the Church' by Rev. G. L. Kalb, D.D., of Bellefontaine, reminiscences and informal addresses from visiting pastors and friends.

"In the evening at 7:30 an address, 'Young People and the Kingdom,' by Rev. William Houston, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, was given. 'The Triumphs of Christianity in the Past Century,' by Rev. William M. Hindman, D.D., Kenton, Ohio, was followed by a short talk by the pastor and Rev. John Clark Hill, D.D., Springfield, Ohio.

"Thus closed one of the most important events in the history of

this and the Buck Creek Church."

The house was built of Berea stone after Romanesque style of architecture. The interior was finished in Georgia pine. It was lighted with gas and electricity. It had an auditorium seating more than 500, which could be increased to approximately 900 by raising the partition between the audience

room and the ten church school rooms.

On May 18, 1898, a request was presented to the congregation by Horace M. Hubbell, a member of this church, for assistance in building a chapel in Oaklahoma, a section in the west end of Urbana, near the present Oakland Street. Mr. Hubbell and others had been conducting prayer meetings there. A committee was appointed to solicit funds and prepare plans for such a chapel, the same to be presented to a meeting of the congregation. A later entry in the minutes states that the notice for the congregational meeting was recalled, so it is not known what became of the plans for the chapel.

At a congregational meeting held on February 15, 1909, it was reported that a new furnace had been installed, and on September 6, 1909, a committee was appointed to confer with the ladies in regard to making an outside entrance to the basement. The choir and pulpit platform was enlarged several times prior to the remodeling of 1953. Some time about 1925 or 1926

the organ was partially electrified.

VIII

BUCK CREEK

As we have stated already, it is believed that Presbyterianism got its first foothold in what is now Champaign County as early as 1802, or perhaps earlier. From the records of Washington Presbytery, we know that a Mr. Runyan of Buck Creek requested supply preaching on July 25, 1804, and a Rev. William Robison was appointed to supply this request.

It was thus in what is now Union Township that Presbyterianism started in this county. That it may have started earlier is substantiated not only by the fact that it is believed that Archibald Steele preached here before 1804, but also by the fact that the histories of Champaign County state that "with one or two exceptions, the first settlers of this township were members of the Presbyterian denomination."

However, the exact location of these early services is difficult to establish, since we read at one place of their being held at home of John Runyan, and at other places of the services being held at the home of Joseph McLain, both of whom, we are told, lived nearer the present village of Mutual than the site of the Buck Creek Church.

Nevertheless, the known facts are that services were held as early as 1804, in the section southeast of Urbana in what is now Union Township. Under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Pittenger and the Rev. Mr. Marquis, the first Communion was observed in the fall of 1810. The congregation met in a grove. No ruling elder had been ordained, so the elements were served by the ministers. During the course of the service, Mr. Marquis said, "John Runyan, you come and help us." Later Runyan was ordained an elder.

It is also known that in 1811, what later became the Buck Creek Church was organized, with David Vance being elected to the office of ruling elder. At first it was listed on presbytery records as Harmony Church because, as the old records of the Buck Creek Church state, "it was connected with a few Presbyterian friends on Treacles Creek." In 1814, this union was dissolved, and the name of the church was changed to Union, signifying the relationship between the Buck Creek and the Urbana congregations.

At this time, Judge John Runyan, Jacob Mintern, and Joseph McClain were elected elders of the Union Church, and served along with David Vance, elected when the church was first organized in 1811. It was not until 1833, when a separate church was organized at Urbana, that the parent church of Presbyterianism in this county was officially listed on Presbytery records as Buck Creek; however, it no doubt was known by this name to residents of the area all the while.

In 1812, James Robinson gave a tract of land for the church grounds and grave yard. Upon this tract of land, a Buck Creek Church stood until 1919, when the last building was razed, and its bricks were used in the construction of the building on South Main Street, in Urbana, which is known as the Lyric Theater, and which is being used today to house the police department and some of the other offices of the city government, while a new City Building is being erected.

The original structure, erected in 1813, at a cost of \$200.00, was of hewed logs. We know that this building was destroyed by fire, although we hable to determine the exact date. Beer's History states that the Rev.

Mr. Brich preached his last sermon at Buck Creek on the day the building was destroyed by fire. According to the old records of the church, the "trustees settled with Rev. John Brich, and took his receipt for all they had promised him," in March 1824. Other records state that the house was destroyed by fire in 1828 or 1829. We know that it was on March 16, 1829, that the congregation took measures to build a new house.

Dr. Barr, in a sermon preached in Urbana in 1933, quoted from the Semi-Centennial sermon of Dr. J. A. P. McGaw the latter's description of the original building. Believing that it will be of interest to the reader of

these pages the writer is repeating his quotation. It is as follows:

"This house was quite a stylish affair, having a gallery on three sides. The first pulpit was a work bench. A board set up on two pins served as a desk. Later, the pulpit was built with steps going up at one side. The first seats were two-inch boards with stout pins on each end for legs; on these sat our grandfathers and grandmothers, patiently listening to sermons not limited to thirty minutes in length."

The second building was ready for use late in the same year, and we read in the old records that the congregation met in the new house on December 19, 1829.



The Buck Creek Church

This building (the third erected by the Buck Creek Congregation) stood from 1850 until 1919. The church was organized in 1811 and was disbanded in 1918.

We are told in the old records that this building was to be 35×45 feet, it was to be of brick, it was to cost \$600.00, and it was to be built near where

the old one stood. We read that on September 11, 1830, the congregation decided that it was necessary to place better seats in the house, and that Joshua Cantrall was appointed to have the work done. In 1837 a new floor was put in. Elsewhere we are told that this second building was of brick and

cost about \$1,000.00.

In the old records of the church, we read that on January 29, 1849, the congregation decided that a new house of worship was needed, and that on the same date, a committee was appointed to select a site, propose plans, and ascertain as nearly as possible the amount required for its construction. On November 28, 1850, the congregation met in the new church, and after a vote of thanks was extended for the faithful performance of its duties, the committee was discharged. We are told that the total cost of the building, land, stoves, lamps, fence, etc., was \$3,199.46, of which there was an unpaid balance of \$414.07.

The following description of the Buck Creek Church is quoted from a paper written several years ago by Mr. John F. Cunningham, who was, at the time of his death in 1953, a member of the Urbana Church. Mr. Cunningham's father, the Rev. R. H. Cunningham, was pastor of Buck Creek Church

from 1893 until 1897.

"This was an unusual rural church. It had character and individuality to be remembered. Located in a grove of fine old trees, it stood in quiet dignity, with its great white pillars and its ever-welcoming built-in porch. On either side of the great entrance was a rather spacious room for class use. Entrance to the church proper was by two doors leading directly to the aisles which led to the front of the church. There was a central block of seats, with a block on either side. At one side of the pulpit was a smaller block of seats, accommodating a dozen and a half persons, and for a period, this block was mostly occupied by one family. On the other side of the pulpit was the choir loft and the fine pipe organ. This was an instrument of unusual quality and it added greatly to the beauty of the services, except as the bellows might suffer from the gnawings of a wayward mouse. At such times the organ was likely to line out a little solo of its own, at the wrong time, and always to the delight of the small boys as well as to the embarrassment of the organist, and more especially the organ pumper."

As has been stated, this building, so far as is known to the writer, stood

until 1919, but during that time several repairs were made.

The Rev. James Hughes, the first pastor of the Union Church (of Buck Creek and Urbana) took charge in 1814, and continued in this capacity until 1818, when he was called to be the principal of Miami University. He was dearly beloved by the people, and did a notable work.

Rev. John Brich came to this field in 1821, and remained until 1824. Following Mr. Brich, the church had supply pastors, among whom were a

Rev. Mr. Goddard and a Rev. Mr. Stewart.

In 1827, the Rev. Dr. David Merrill was invited to preach for four weeks, then for six months, after which he became stated supply, in which capacity he served until the separation of the Urbana congregation from the Union Church. After this separation, the Buck Creek Church secured the services of Rev. A. Boutell, who served from March 1834 until June 1835.

Dr. Merrill preached at Buck Creek half-time from October 1836 until October 1838.

For the most part, after Dr. Merrill, the Buck Creek Church had a minister of its own until after 1900, when there were times when the pastor of

the Urbana Church preached at Buck Creek in the afternoons.

From the old records, it is impossible to gather enough material to write biographical sketches of the various pastors. In many cases, it has been impossible to determine the exact dates for the beginning and end of each pastorate. However, at the end of this chapter, there is a list of ministers who served the Buck Creek Church. It has been impossible to get exact dates of some of the pastorates because the old records do not, in some cases, reveal this information.

For many years, services were held at Buck Creek in the morning, and at Texas, or Mutual, as it is now known, in the afternoon. In the records, there is an entry dated March 4, 1860, stating that the new church at Texas was dedicated, but so far as can be determined, there was not a separate organization at that place. Records dated March 28, 1843, and June 3, 1854, also show that there was a Presbyterian Church of Sharon, located some seven or eight miles north and slightly east of Buck Creek, for a period of eleven years.

Probably the longest pastorate at Buck Creek was that of the Rev. H. R. Price, who preached there from October 1840 until January 1, 1859, with the exception of the period between September 1850 and October 1851. He was installed as pastor November 29, 1852. During these years, Mr. Price made several efforts to resign, but each time the congregation refused to accede to his wishes. Finally, in the fall of 1858, being unable to raise sufficient funds to pay his salary, the congregation was forced to advise him to seek a new field of labor. In 1859 he is listed as pastor-elect at Bloomington, Illinois.

Beer's History of Champaign County describes Mr. Price as follows: "He was not a 'rare and ripe scholar,' but he had good sense, the zeal of an evangelist, and, in his pulpit efforts, was full of enthusiasm and gesticulation. He was a most companionable man, and probably owed much of his popularity to this characteristic."

In the General Assembly minutes of 1839 and 1840, he was listed as a licentiate under the care of the Presbytery of Columbus. In the minutes of 1872, 1873, and 1874, Mr. Price was listed as stated supply at Galion, Ohio, and in 1875, he was listed as retired and living at Paddy's Run, Ohio. He

died in 1875, though the exact date is not given.

The Buck Creek Church had its highest membership during the pastorate of Mr. Price. The greatest number of members listed was 229 in 1857, the church having received 71 members on profession of faith in 1856. It was not until 1866 that the membership of Buck Creek was smaller than that of Urbana. In that year Urbana reported 225, while Buck Creek listed only 140. While the membership at Buck Creek was listed as 185 in 1879, it never reached the 200 mark after 1861. By 1900 it was down to 80, and thereafter, there was a steady decline until 1918, when only 39 were reported. Between May 26 and November 17, 1918, thirty-three members of Buck Creek were received by certificate of transfer into the church at Urbana; the largest group of 27 were received on November 3rd.

The only other pastor of the Buck Creek Church, other than those already mentioned at other places in this book, of whom the writer has any biographical information, is the Rev. W. M. Claybaugh, who served this church from October 1871 until December 30, 1888. He was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, January 9, 1837, and was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Cincinnati, in January 1860. He preached at Iowa City, Iowa; Rochester, New York; Hartford, Connecticut; and Boston, Massachusetts; Lima and Van Wert, Ohio. While at Lima and Van Wert he was a member of the United Presbyterian Church. (Ref: Beer's History of Champaign County, pages 640-641.)

Following Mr. Claybaugh came W. W. Cross, R. H. Cunningham, George A. Wilbur, and C. E. Tedford. Dr. Dempster of Urbana preached on alternate Sunday afternoons, beginning in May 1914. During intervals, various

ministers supplied the pulpit, both at Buck Creek and Mutual.

The date on which the last services were held is not known to the writer, but the final entry in the minutes of the Session is dated March 25, 1917. As has been stated, the building was razed in 1919. The Presbytery of Marion dissolved the congregation in 1918.

Mr. John F. Cunningham, mentioned above, has told the writer that it was his desire to purchase the building and convert it into a community center, but that due to the great demand for brick, he was outbid by the

people erecting the theater.

Most of the members of the Buck Creek Church brought their certificates of transfer to Urbana, and it has been the privilege of the writer to know many of them. A few of them still remain active here.

PASTORS OF BUCK CREEK CHURCH

| James Hughes John Brich | 1814 1821 | 1818 1824 | |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| David Merrill | 1821 | | |
| | | 1833 | |
| A. Boutell Mar. | | June 1835 | |
| David Merrill Oct. | | Oct. 1838 | (Half-time) |
| H. R. PriceOct. | 1840 | Sept. 1850 | (Re-elected Mar. 3, 1851) |
| Oct. | 1851 | Jan. 1, 1859 | (Installed Nov. 29, 1852) |
| J. M. CrossJan. | 27, 1860 | 1863 or 1864 | |
| J. O. ProctorMar. | 25, 1865 | | (Supply minister) |
| J. C. Meloy | | Sept. 30, 1871 | , , , |
| W. F. Claybaugh Oct. | 1871 | Dec. 30, 1888 | |
| W. W. CrossNov. | 3, 1889 | Apr. 12, 1892 | (Installed May 23, 1890) |
| R. H. Cunningham Apr. | 2, 1893 | Oct. 1897 | , , , , |
| George A. Wilbur_Jan. | 13, 1899 | Apr. 1902 | |
| C. E. Tedford Oct. | 10, 1905 | June 10, 1910 | (Shared with Huntsville) |
| W. J. DempsterMay | | - 1 | (Alt. Sunday afternoons) |

OTHER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Springhill

Of the several Presbyterian Churches which have existed in the county at various times through these 150 years, besides Urbana, only one remains. It is located in the village of Springhill, in Harrison Township, in the northwestern section of the county.

It was organized by Rev. Joseph Stevenson on January 12, 1826, as the Stoney Creek Presbyterian Church, and was located at what was then known as Newell's Mill which stood at the base of the hill on which the village of Springhill now stands. The name of the church was changed to Springhill about 1864.

The records show that the twelve people who became charter members of the Stoney Creek Presbyterian Church had been members of the Cherokee Run (Huntsville) Presbyterian Church, having been received into its Communion by the Session meeting at Newell's Mill on August 13, 1825. A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine, published in 1900, states that the Churches of Stoney Creek, Cherokee Run, and Bellefontaine were all included in the Church of Logan, which was admitted to the Columbus Presbytery, October 6, 1824.

Soon after its organization, the congregation of the Stoney Creek (Springhill) Church erected a log building in the woods near the present site on the place of Miles Wilson's heirs, and worshipped there until the removal of the log church to the present site, and there, in 1844, built a new church. In 1886, the building was remodeled and refurnished, the frame being

slightly changed, and turned to face the east.

We are told that when the church was first organized, the Indians who inhabited the territory still unsettled by the white man frequently attended the white man's services in this log church. They politely, but insistently, refused to use the church benches to sit upon; instead, they squatted crosslegged, with blankets drawn comfortably about their shoulders, on the floor. They were always attentive to the sermon being preached, and conducted themselves in a quiet and reserved manner. After church, they slipped quietly out, and back into the woods with perhaps only a nod of the head and a "Howdy" to the more friendly white man. (Ref. History of DeGraff, page 98.)

An interesting insight into the economic conditions of a century or more ago is found in the report of the congregational meeting in 1844, at which meeting it was decided to build a new church. Objections were made that

the money could not be raised.

"Corn sold for 10 cents per bushel and wheat hauled to Dayton brought only 37 cents. Labor was 25 cents per day. Butter cost 9 cents per pound and pork was \$1.25 per hundred pounds. A few town people protested that provisions were too high; eggs were 7 cents per dozen."

It is interesting to note that Rev. H. A. Ketchum, pastor of the Urbana Church, preached the sermon at the dedication of the remodeled church, in 1886.

For several years prior to 1947, Dr. Harry Barr preached at Springhill every other Sunday. At the time of this writing, it is without a pastor, the Rev. Richard Frothingham, who had served both the Springhill and DeGraff Churches from September 1951, having resigned to become a Chaplain in the United States Army, in June 1953.

Treacle's Creek

As has been stated, the name of the first Presbyterian Church to be organized in this county was listed as "Harmony," because the Church at Buck Creek was connected with "a few Presbyterian friends on Treacles Creek." This relationship continued until 1814, but it is not known where the Treacles Creek Church was located. The writer did discover that a Treacles Creek Church was listed on the rolls of Columbus Presb, tery in the minutes of the General Assembly of 1825. A creek by this name runs east of Mechanicsburg.

Mutual (Texas)

Since the old presbytery records and other sources of information speak of preaching at the homes of John Runyan and Joseph McLain, both of whom lived near Mutual, it is believed that services were held there at a very early date.

For many years, services were held at Buck Creek in the morning, and at Texas, or Mutual, as it is now known, in the afternoon. In the records, there is an entry dated March 4, 1860, stating that the new church, built at Texas, under the direction of Buck Creek, was dedicated, the sermon being preached by the Rev. J. M. Cross, pastor at Buck Creek. The text for the occasion was, "And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins." It was stated that the house cost \$1,540.00 and that there was about \$600.00 of this amount unprovided for. A subscription was taken which was thought to be sufficient to meet this deficiency. This house is still standing and is used as a barn, although it has been moved from its original location.

This writer has known several people in the Urbana Church who can remember attending services at Mutual, and there are records of services being held there as late as 1904, but, insofar as this writer knows, there was never a separate organization there; rather, it was a part of the Buck Creek Church.

On April 11, 1889, Dr. Ketchum, then pastor in Urbana, made the suggestion that a church be organized at Mutual, but the Session at Buck Creek went on record as not being "in harmony with his views."

It is interesting to know how the name "Texas" came to be attached to the village. It is said that first lots on the site of the village were sold about the year 1840 by William Lafferty, who, probably, tired of the Buck Creek region, gave the neighboring people to understand that he was going to Texas; but instead, it was soon discovered that he had moved into a little cabin adjoining the settlement, and the people ridiculously called it "Lafferty's Texas"; hence the name of Texas was applied to the present village of Mutual. The village was laid out in July 1846, but no original plat was made and recorded until July 1849. (Ref: Beer's History of Champaign County, page 402.)

An entry in the Session records of Buck Creek, dated March 28, 1843, states "that on that date, the Session convened to consider the request of John Pollock and others, for a division of the Buck Creek Church." This request was forwarded to the Presbytery of Sidney with the statement that the Buck Creek Church had no objections to the proposed division. The records of the presbytery, dated April 11, 1843, state that a request was received from a group of eighteen members of the Buck Creek Church for a separate organization. The records go on to state that the request was granted, and the Sharon Church was organized, July 3, 1843.

This church is listed in the General Assembly minutes from 1844, when it had 23 members, until 1853. It never had more than 23 members and in

1848 there were only 17.

The only regular pastoral services of which there is any record are those of Rev. T. T. Smith, who is listed as stated supply in 1849, 1851, and 1852.

The Session records of Buck Creek, dated June 3, 1854, state that the Session concurred in the action of Sidney Presbytery, dissolving the Church of Sharon, and attaching the following persons to Buck Creek: John Runyan. Nancy Runyan, Hezekiah Bayless and wife, ————— Johnson, and wife.

The writer has been told that an old dilapidated building now standing at Slabtown just east of the Urbana Country Club on Route 36, on the south side of the road, and at one time a blacksmith shop, was formerly the Presbyterian Church of Sharon. It is also his understanding that it stood on the site of the Sharon cemetery, which is located at the intersection of county roads 167B (which turns south, off Route 36 about one mile east of the Country Club) and 166A which turns east about one quarter mile south of Route 36).

Mack-a-Cheek

Although this church was probably in existence only a few years, and was located in Logan County, it is mentioned here because of its possible relationship with the church at Urbana. The History of the Presbyterian Church at Bellefontaine states that this church was in existence in 1814, and that prior to that date, some of the Presbyerians in Urbana went to this church, while others went to Buck Creek. From the same source, we learn that the congregation seems to have broken up before 1824. It is thought that the infiltration of the New Light Movement into this area at Muddy Run, one mile south of West Liberty, might have been a chief factor in breaking up this congregation.

Some of the people familiar with this area have informed the writer that the Presbyterian Church of Mack-a-Cheek was located at Smith's mill. located where Piatt Castle now is, and owned by Judge Robert Smith, who was probably a prime mover in this church. We are told that he became one of the first members of the church at Bellefontaine, and that he was an elder

in the Presbyterian Church in Virginia before moving here in 1810.

Church at Addison (Christian)

Beer's History of Champaign County, in the chapter on Jackson Township, states that the Christian Church of Addison (Page 437) was organized in 1875, and that a church and parsonage were purchased (for \$600.00) from

the Presbyterians who had organized a church there some forty years earlier. The church is said to have cost \$1,800.00 when it was built. The writer has been unable to get any additional information about any such church, and failed to find it listed in the General Assembly minutes.

North Lewisburg and Mingo

Some of the old records speak of James Hughes, the first pastor of Buck Creek, preaching to the Indians at Mingo, but nothing is known about any Presbyterian Church ever being located there. The records of Sidney Presbytery, dated April 14, 1846, state that the Presbyterians at Lewisburg in Champaign County wanted a church, and that a committee was appointed to visit them, but nothing more is known about it.

Cable

According to Middleton's History of Champaign County published in 1917 (page 237), "the first church building in Cable was started as a Presbyterian Church, but the few citizens of the village and surrounding community all went together to assist in its construction. Before it was completed, it was seen that the expense of building would fall on Hiram Cable, the founder of the town, so he decided to sell it to a group of Methodists who offered to take the unfinished building off his hands for three hundred and fifty dollars."

Mechanicsburg

On March 30, 1943, this writer read a paper on the "History of the Presbyterian Church in Champaign County" to the Champaign County Historical Society. After the paper was finished, some of the people present mentioned the fact that at one time there had been a Presbyterian Church at Mechanicsburg. War service came along and prevented a further investigation of the subject at that time. In the course of the preparation of the material for this book, the writer has made many attempts to learn if there was ever such a church, but has been unsuccessful. The only information available that might bear on the subject comes from two sources. A church by the name of Treacles Creek appears on the rolls of Columbus Presbytery in 1825. This may have been near Mechanicsburg (see chapter on Buck Creek). The only direct mention of a Presbyterian Church at Mechanicsburg is an entry in the minutes of the Session of the Urbana Church dated May 5, 1890, when there is a record of letters of transfer being granted for certain people to unite with the First Presbyterian Church of Mechanicsburg.

United Presbyterian

The History of Champaign County, published by Beer's and Company in 1881, on page 358, states:

"This society was organized in the fall of 1844, by Rev. J. S. Mc-Cracken. James Dallas, Andrew McBeth, and Miles C. Beatty were elected ruling elders, and constituted the Session. Rev. Thomas Palmer was first pastor in 1845, and died February 15, 1847; he was succeeded by L. H. Long in 1849, and by J. B. Findley in 1853. In 1856 the congregation was without a stated pastor, and continued so until 1861, though services were held by Revs. David Payne,

T. C. McCaghn, and Thomas Brown. W. S. Morhead preached for one year, but declined a permanent pastorate to labor as a missionary in Italy. In December 1862, T. P. Dysart accepted a call, and died at the end of two years' service. He was succeeded by Rev. H. H. Thompson in April 1865, who still remains the faithful, earnest, and able pastor of perhaps the smallest church in the city.

"The house in which the congregation worships was built in 1846, and occupies a lot on West Market Street, below Grace Church. (Grace M. E. Church stood on the site where the Post Office is now located). The probability is that at no distant date this branch or section of the U. P. organization will merge in the

First Presbyterian."

Nothing more is known of any of the ministers mentioned above, except Dr. Thompson. He was born October 13, 1819, in Belmont County, Ohio. He was graduated from the Associate Reformed Theological Seminary of Allegheny, Pennsylvania. He did missionary work in the hills of Northwestern Virginia in the summer of 1845, and preached in Southeastern Ohio during the summer of 1846. He was ordained on September 9, 1847, and on the same date was installed as pastor at Cochraton, Crawford County, Pennsylvania; he came to Urbana in April 1865.

At another place (page 696) Beer's History states that Dr. Thompson had to resign his pastorate here in April 1878 because of ill health. However, it is said that he continued to live in Urbana, and, upon recovery of his health, became "actively engaged in his Master's service." From the records of the First Church, it is learned that Dr. Thompson gave the prayer of dedication and thanksgiving at the laying of the cornerstone of this church, Sunday, May 6, 1894.

It was not long until the prediction, made by the writer of Beer's History in 1881, was fulfilled. An entry in the Session records of the First Church, dated July 24, 1888, speaks of certain members of the "late U. P. Church of Urbana," being received into the membership of this church, "Rev. Dr. Thompson having authority to issue letters to unaffiliated members of said church."

This writer has been told that the building used by the U. P. Church became the Public Library, and was used as such until the present library

was erected.

ATTACKS FROM WITHIN

The New Light Movement

Just as Presbyterianism came from Kentucky into Southern Ohio and thence to Champaign County, so did some of the factors that were to influence the Presbyterian Church, though, so far as can be determined, to a less degree here than at many other places. Chief among these was the New Light Movement. As early as 1813, a colony of citizens who were followers of Barton W. Stone held camp meetings in Salem Township. According to Middleton's History of Champaign County, published in 1917 (page 505), these people entered into a covenant which is as follows: "We the members of the Christian Church at Bethel have hereunto subscribed our names, taking the word of God for our doctrine, discipline and government, promise subjection to each other in the Lord, according thereunto in the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen."

This church was also called Muddy Run and was for many years "the only church in the country near where West Liberty now is." (Middleton.) The Rev. William Robinson, who in 1804 was assigned to preach at Mr. Runyan's on Buck Creek, is mentioned as having preached at Muddy Run, and the History of the Bellefontaine Church (page 130) attributes the decline of the Mac-a-Cheek Church partially to the growth of the Muddy Run

Church.

At a meeting of the Champaign County Historical Society in 1943, the author of these pages learned of a considerable controversy between the New Light Movement and the Presbyterians at Mechanicsburg, but he has not been able to uncover the details of this controversy.

It is also known that the Shakers (a sect which resulted from the New Light Movement) gained at least a partial, though not lasting, foothold in

Rush Township as early as 1828.

Other Christian Churches at various times were located in Christiansburg (Addison), Cable, Carysville, Woodstock, and Urbana, though so far

as this writer can determine, they were never strong.

For a complete story of this movement, the following are suggested: "The New Lights" by John Vant Stephens, and "150 Years of Presbyterianism in the Ohio Valley (1790-1940)."

Old and New School Presbyterians

Between 1838 and 1870, the Presbyterian Church was divided into two national organizations which were designated the Old School and New School, and which maintained wholly independent assemblies, synods, and presbyteries. They had no more connection with each other than they did with churches of other denominations. An account of this controversy, especially as it affected this area, is found in the "150 Years of Presbyterianism in the Ohio Valley" published in 1940.

Although, so far as is known, there were no New School churches in Champaign County, this immediate area was not left untouched by the controversy. Piecing together the story as it is found in the biographical sketch of Dr. Merrill, first pastor of the Urbana Church, published in a book of his sermons, and the minutes of the Presbytery of Sidney, which was organized

in 1837, we get the following story concerning the controversy between the Old and New School Movements in Urbana and surrounding regions.

We know that the New School had its beginnings about the time Mr. Merrill was graduated from the Andover Seminary. However, it did not reach its height until several years later. His biographical sketch reports that he was considerably involved in the rise and progress of the New School Movement, and was regarded with suspicion by his Old School brethren in the presbytery, and that when he was examined for installation in the Urbana Church, his trial sermon was objected to as unsound doctrine, but that after a free conversation between him and the presbytery, it was seen that their difference was verbal rather than real. He was requested to read a second sermon upon an assigned subject. Since the records of the presbytery, which at that time was the Presbytery of Miami, are not available, and his biographical sketch does not state what that subject was, the subject assigned is not known. Nevertheless, it must have proved satisfactory, for the presbytery installed him, as has been reported, in 1835.

However, this was not the end of his differences with the presbytery, for almost from the time of the beginning of the Presbytery of Sidney, there are references to Mr. Merrill and his differences with the presbytery. Several times he was requested to give reasons for his non-attendance, and although the reasons are usually sustained, his frequent absence seems to indicate his lack of harmony with his brethren.

Involved in the same controversy was the Rev. Mr. Page, of Lima. In the records of the Presbytery of Sidney, dated November 7, 1838, there is the report of the standing of Brethren Merrill and Page. The resolutions offered by the committee were adopted and are as follows: "Whereas, it appears that there is reason to believe that Brethren Merrill and Page no longer recognize the authority of this Presbytery, therefore resolved, that the Stated Clerk be directed to correspond with these brethren, ascertain their views, and report to the next meeting of Presbytery. Resolved further, that the Presbytery hope and expect that these brethren (if withdrawn from our jurisdiction) will in good faith abstain from using that position in which they stand toward the churches under our care, by virtue of their connection with this Presbytery, to draw these churches from their present ecclesiastical relations."

On June 25, 1839, Mr. Page appeared before the presbytery and made the following statement: "That he did not recognize either of the two assemblies claiming to be the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church as the true assembly, nor either of the two bodies claiming to be the Synod of Cincinnati as a constitutional Synod; but, that he considered this presbytery, as far as he knew its doings, as a constitutional presbytery, and that he had attended two conventions, one at Bloomingburg, Ohio, in December last, one at Oxford, Ohio, in May last," the proceedings of which he read as further expression of his views.

Among these proceedings was a set of resolutions, the substance of which was that the convention did not recognize the authority of either of the two bodies claiming to be the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and that this convention would sustain any of the brethren that might become involved in controversies with their presbytery through the statement of their views by immediately forming themselves into a

presbytery.

In answer to this statement of Mr. Page, the Presbytery of Sidney adopted a set of resolutions in which it let it be known that the presbytery could no longer recognize as a co-presbyter any brother who had cast off the authority of the regular court of the Presbyterian Church, however strongly the presbytery may desire to bear patiently with their brethren in their difficulties and perplexities. In these resolutions, Mr. Page was earnestly exhorted, in the fear of God and in view of his obligations to the presbytery, to consider his present position. Presbytery also enjoined him to avoid such schismatical and disorganized meetings as he had therefore been attending.

A copy of these resolutions was also sent to Mr. Merrill, but evidently these brethren did not make satisfactory amends to the presbytery for another set of resolutions, dated February 11, 1840, is found in the minutes, the substance of which was that Messrs. Page and Merrill were no longer recognized as members of this presbytery. One of the members of the presbytery, a Rev. Mr. Meeks, was directed to declare the Urbana and Buck Creek Churches vacant. Mr. Merrill appealed his case to the Synod.

A paper from the Urbana Church relating to Mr. Merrill was presented to the presbytery on April 13, 1841. However, this paper was laid on the

table and its contents are unknown.

According to the biographical sketch referred to above, on account of the informality of the proceedings against him, he was restored when his case came before the Synod. However, as has already been stated, the pastoral relations between Mr. Merrill and the Urbana Church were dissolved on April 14, 1841.

There is an entry in the minutes of the Presbytery of Sidney dated June 29, 1841, that states that the presbytery was informed that the decision of the Synod of Cincinnati, reversing the decision of the presbytery in erasing the names of Messrs. Merrill and Page from the roll, had been reversed by the General Assembly, thus sustaining the original action of the presbytery. It was resolved that the presbytery was satisfied with the final disposition of the matter. So far as the Urbana Church was concerned, this seems to have been the end of the affair, since Mr. Merrill returned to Vermont, where he

became pastor of the Congregational Church at Peacham.

However, Mr. Page again comes into the records, this time more directly related to our own Presbyterian history in this area. The Church at Cherokee, although it expressed itself as having a decided preference for the Old School body, employed Mr. Page, and refused to dispose of his services, even though commanded to do so by the presbytery. On April 26, 1842, it answered presbytery that, though it did not wish to violate the commands of the presbytery, it had a moral obligation to Mr. Page that it must fulfill, so the New School Mr. Page continued to preach in the bounds of the Old School Presbytery of Sidney, at least until February 1843.

As has been stated in the biographical sketch on the Rev. Mr. Alexander Cowan, there was some controversy between Mr. Cowan and the Presbytery of Sidney in 1844. It is assumed that this was of the same nature as the

trouble of Mr. Merrill, though this is not certain.

So far as can be determined, there were no other manisfestations of the Old vs. New School controversy in this area.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

In this chapter it is the purpose of the writer to record some things of general interest to Presbyterianism in the county. One such item is the following description of early Presbyterians in Urbana which is found on page 235 of Beer's History of Champaign County:

"This society was rigidly Calvinistic, believed in the 'Decrees,' and sang Watt's psalms and hymns. The singing was not very artistic. Spasmodic efforts were made to organize and continue a choir, which, after short periods of usefulness, vacated the seats set apart for their use, and occasionally the preacher requested someone in the congregation to 'raise the tune.' The service of song must have been a heavy burden, both to pastor and people, and the wonder is that the Scriptural injunction 'to make melody in their hearts to the Lord' during the interval had not been adopted, both as more edifying and scriptural than the practice in vogue. In one or two matters, however, the two congregations (Methodist and Presbyterian) representing the religious sentiments of the people, were in accord. One was an uncompromising hostility to musical instruments in a house of worship. In the eves of these godly men and women, 'a fiddle' in religious assemblies would have been considered 'the abomination of desolation' and he who in a catholic spirit suggested a viol as eminently serviceable and necessary, was worse than 'a heathen and a publican.' Nor was there charity for sister churches. They assumed to stand on the same platform, but the Methodists inserted a 'plank,' touching 'free agency' and 'falling from grace,' while the Presbyterian improved his with one relating to 'predestination' and the 'final preservation of the saints.' Religion was a serious business, and he who had come out from the world, and, like Bunyan's Pilgrim, had set out from the city of destruction to go to the Celestial City, had no business to tamper with conscience. 'Thus saith the Lord' ended all controversy, and, as a rule, they were strict constructionists, as they understood the Scriptures. There could not, therefore, be much harmony between the several denominations, and doctrinal sermons were not unpopular. A favorite topic in the pulpit was the sin of dress. The curls and flounces and head-dress of fashionable display were so many snares of the devil to lead to perdition, and matters for the discipline of the church. Nor had they any weakness for flowers on the sacred desk. It was an effeminacy not to be tolerated. The Gospel was 'yea and nay,' and 'whatsoever was more than these came of evil.' The character of the one seemed built on the dogma, 'salvation's free,' that of the other, 'repent and live.' It colored their lives. The rule of faith and practice was, Why should we keep up distinct organizations unless we adhere to our distinctive tenets?' Yet let us not judge the man of the earlier part of the century by the standards of the latter part. In many respects they were no common men. We may criticize their ways, but Phariseeism itself will recognize their virtues, and they helped to make Ohio what it is today."

At another place, the author of Beer's History has the following to say, "The Buck Creek church was different from its Urbana neighbor in the department of singing. This was led by Elder Samuel Humes and Deacon John Earsom, who stood up before the congregation, joined in the singing with

a good will and earnestness, and verified the Scriptural injunction to 'sing aloud and make a joyful noise.'"

The trustees of the present day will be interested to know that they are not the first officers of the church to be worried about its finances. Throughout the records of both the Urbana and Buck Creek Churches, there are frequent references to unpaid bills, including the pastor's salary. On May 31, 1869, the congregation even adopted a plan to levy a tax on basis of the tax duplicate. Apparently this was not successful, for on July 16, 1871, it was decided to go back to the old plan. The most often used plan for financing the church in the early days was to charge a rent for the pews. In 1870, the rental of the pews varied from \$18.00 to \$44.00 per year.

That our forefathers were economy minded is revealed by an entry in the minutes dated January 12, 1880, when it was suggested that the "church might be economically heated by pipes connecting the furnace of the Court House if arrangements could be made." Since no other reference to this suggestion can be found, it is concluded that nothing was done about this matter.

In 1885, a new bell was purchased for \$496.65, and the old one was sold for \$195.00. It seems likely that this bell purchased in 1885 is the one now in use in the present building.

When the third church building was erected about 1853, a clock was installed in the tower. It remained there until the building was torn down in 1893. At that time, it was transferred to the tower of the Court House, where it was in use until a disastrous pre-dawn fire, on January 20, 1948, destroyed the clock, along with the entire front part of the Court House. The rest of the building was damaged to such an extent that it was later torn down.

It is of interest to know that until 1902, Urbana was the largest church in the presbytery. Thereafter, the Bellefontaine Church was the largest, until the Presbytery of Bellefontaine merged with the Presbytery of Marion, in 1912.

It is also of interest to note that Ben Cleveland, one of the oldest and most respected colored residents of Urbana, has told this writer that he was baptized in the Presbyterian Church.

As this booklet goes to press the women of the church are organizing a Women's Association on the basis of the plan adopted several years ago by the National Council of Presbyterian Women.

XII

CHURCH SCHOOL

Although it is impossible here to trace the history of the church school throughout the life of the church, it is believed that something of the beginnings of the school will be of interest. Among the papers read at the Centennial of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, in 1933, there is an interesting account of the First Sunday School in Urbana. According to this paper, the fact that "there were so many families in which the children were growing up like the heathen without God and fearless of sin, weighed heavily upon the hearts" of certain good women of the community. In 1817, a few of these women met at the home of one Rev. Mr. John C. Pearson from week to week for prayer and conference, and out of these meetings came a suggestion by four of the members that a Sunday School be opened.

From other sources, it is learned that the first "Sabbath School" was a cooperative effort on behalf of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches; that the leaders were Mrs. John Reynolds, Mrs. Mary Ward, Mrs. W. R.

Ross, and Mrs. Hughes; and that the school began about 1812.

At any rate, the suggestion was well received, and it is said that "without delay a building owned by Dr. Adam Mosgrove was secured. Rustic seats were provided and Bibles, Testaments, Spelling Books, and Primers were collected from families interested in the enterprise. When all was properly arranged, public notice was given, and the children were invited to attend. It was well attended, and many colored mothers were received along with their children, so that they also could become able to read the Word of God for themselves." In 1820 it was deemed advisable to divide the school between the Presbyterians and the Methodists, each group taking one-half of the scholars.

Through the years, the church school has been active, although it is impossible to trace its growth. One thing that is of interest that should not be overlooked is the fact that for more than thirty years, all the residents of the Champaign County Children's Home attended the church school of the Presbyterian Church. About 1943, the children were divided among the various churches of the town, and now they decide which church school they want to attend.

Since that time, the church school has operated on the extended session basis. The Nursery (ages 2 and 3), Kindergarten (ages 4 and 5), Primary (grades 1-3), and Junior (grades 4-6) meet in their own rooms for two hours each Sunday, during which time they have periods for worship, study, activities — all on a departmental basis.

The program of the church school is carried on by a staff of experienced teachers under the direction of a superintendent and a committee on Chris-

tian Education appointed by the Session.

Since its introduction in 1948, the church school has used the "Program of Faith and Life for use in Church and Home" published by the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church.

XIII

THE ORGAN AND WALTER SMALL

At a meeting of the congregation on May 27, 1869, it was decided to purchase a new pipe organ, and a committee consisting of O. Noble, W. W. Hughes, and E. L. Small was appointed to raise funds for, and purchase, the same. At the same time, Mr. Wm. Caldwell was instructed "to sell the melodian now in use in this church." The date for the installation is not given, but in the list of expenditures for 1871, there is an entry of \$200.00 being paid to Walter Small, organist. At the meeting in 1869, it was also decided to install the organ in a recess at the north end of the church. The brickwork necessary to erect this recess was to be done by Mr. E. L. Small, at his own expense.



View of original choir loft in the present church building. Walter Small is at the organ. The organ was installed in 1869 and used until 1953.

On May 31, 1893, Mr. O. Noble was appointed to have the organ taken down and cared for until it could be placed in the new church. At various times there are entries concerning repairs to the organ. This instrument remained in use until Monday, April 6, 1953, the day after Easter, when it was dismantled to make room for the new organ.

During the years when the church was concerned with either repairing or replacing the organ, the writer talked with the representatives of several organ companies, but none of them were able to say what kind of organ it was, originally. However, Dr. Barr, former pastor, has since stated that it was built by the Steere Organ Company, which later was taken over by the Skinner Organ Company. It is known, however, that at various times it was pumped by hand, water, and electricity. The last major repair of the old organ was about 1926, when a new console was purchased and installed.

With only a few exceptions, Walter Small was the only person to play the organ from the time of its installation until the time of his death, on

March 26, 1915. For more than forty-six years he was organist.

Walter Small, the son of E. L. and Eliza Small, was born at Lowell. Massachusetts, August 22, 1848. His family moved to Urbana while Walter was a child. The Small family lived at different places in Urbana, and for a number of years they owned and lived on a farm just south of town, which in later years was known as the home of the late Major McConnell.

An article appearing in the newspaper at the time of his death in 1915 stated, "As a small boy, Walter Small displayed wonderful musical ability and for years played a small organ at all services held in the Presbyterian Church."

On the Sunday preceding his death, during the morning service, he complained of being ill, and with Dr. Dempster, the pastor, he retired to the study, where he received medical attention at the hands of Dr. David Moore, a member of the church choir. Nevertheless, he insisted on playing the closing number, and even returned to the church at night and played for the last time upon the pipe organ. The article mentioned above states, "This organ was to him as a dear friend, and he insisted upon playing it as long as he had the strength."

Some of the members of the church who remember Mr. Small have told the writer that for many years he played the organs at the Presbyterian Church and at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, going from one church to the other (a distance of about four city blocks) to be at each church at the times he was needed. He was received into the membership of this church on April 26, 1895. In his early life he married Miss Rilla Kenton, who died

many years before her husband.

During the week following his illness at church, he was taken from his room over the National Bank to the home of Mr. and Mrs. George McConnell. There he remarked that he felt "like he was in heaven." A special nurse was secured from Columbus, this being made possible by members of the Brotherhood of the Presbyterian Church. He died on March 26, 1915; the direct

cause of death was cancer of the liver. On Sunday, May 30, 1915, the Choral Society of Urbana, of which he was director, and the Presbyterian Church, conducted memorial services for Walter Small. At this service, a bronze tablet in memory of him, placed upon the organ, was unveiled. This day was the anniversary of Mr. Small's service as organist of the church. The tablet is now in the church office, and reads

as follows:

In Loving Memory of Walter Lawrence Small Organist of this church for Forty-six years 1848 — Faithful and Beloved — 1915 A copy of the service can be found in the records of the church.

XIV

THE REMODELING AND REPAIR PROGRAM

The sesqui-centennial services held in this church, October 4-11, 1953, (see Chapter XV) not only marked the end of 150 years of Presbyterianism in Champaign County, but they also represented the completion of a major task undertaken by the congregation during the preceding three years.

In reality, the dreams which were being fully realized in October 1953, date back even further. It was after a year's study of the needs of the church by the elders, deacons, and trustees, under the leadership of the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Mr. Vance Brand, that in January 1950, the congregation adopted plans for a \$60,000.00 remodeling and repair program and authorized the Finance Committee of the newly organized Church Building Council to conduct a campaign to secure funds to meet the cost of such a program.



Interior view of church showing organ and choir loft as they appeared until Easter Sunday 1953.

In February and March of 1950, a successful campaign was concluded and the Building Council decided to embark upon a three year program to repair the church and remodel the church school and social rooms of the church.

In the summer of 1950, the stained glass windows were repaired, new stone columns were placed in the east tower of the church, the stone walls were repointed, the roof was repaired, the outside woodwork was painted, a new outside bulletin board was installed, and railings were placed at the front entrance to the church.

During the winter of 1950-51, the new gas-fired hot water heating system was installed in the church school part of the building by the H. W. Hegele Company of Urbana. Although installation originally had been planned as a part of the second phase of the total program, the beginning of hostilities in Korea threatened to create such a scarcity of materials, it was considered wise to advance this part of the work and get it accomplished while materials for the same could be secured.

While these jobs were being completed the various committees of the Building Council were working with the architect, Mr. F. E. Freytag of Sidney, making plans for the remodeling job. The final plans were approved early in 1951, and the contract for this job was awarded to the Ferguson Construction Company of Sidney, Ohio.

These plans called for a solid wall to replace the old sliding partition between the church and the church school auditorium, a second floor to replace the old balcony that ran around the three sides of the church school auditorium, a church parlor and class rooms on the first floor, a recreation room, chapel, and class rooms in the basement, a dining room and kitchen on the top floor.

On July 5, 1951, the contractor began his work of dismantling the interior of the church school part of the building. On Sunday evening, February 10, 1952, following a congregational dinner, dedication services were held. Dr. Harry R. Roach, Field Representative of the Board of Christian Education for the Synod of Ohio, spoke on "Christian Education, Today and Tomorrow." Among the special guests and participants in the program were the following: The Rev. Herman A. Klahr, Executive of the Synod of Ohio; The Rev. Mr. Rodger B. Sillars, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Marvsville, and Moderator of the Presbytery of Marion; the Rev. Mr. Cecil C. Baily, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Belle Center, Ohio, and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Marion; the Rev. Dr. Harry W. Barr, Superintendent of the Ohio Presbyterian Homes, and pastor of the Urbana Presbyterian Church from 1919 until 1941; the Rev. Charles A. Hunter, interim pastor here from 1943 until 1946; the Rev. Mr. Ivan L. Wilkins, General Presbyter of the Marion, Columbus, and Zanesville Presbyteries; the Rev. Mr. Samuel Furrow, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Urbana, representing the Urbana Ministerial Association; Ferdinand Freytag, architect; and Frank Courter, general manager of the Ferguson Construction Company.

Mr. Vance Brand, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Church Building Council, served as master of ceremonies, and Mr. Robert S. McConnell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the new rooms to the congregation; Mr. Harry Cowden, President of the congregation, made the speech of acceptance.

Although the rooms were dedicated and put into use at that time, it was necessary for the contractor to return in the summer of 1952 to replace the floor in the basement and the dining room, and to make minor adjustments in the ceilings of some of the class rooms. This part of the work was

completed in the late summer.

As was characteristic of all repair and building programs of this period, this job cost more than was anticipated. In the fall of 1951, a campaign for an additional \$20,000 was successfully concluded under the leadership of Mr. Robert S. McConnell, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Included in the original estimate for the total program was an item of \$6,000.00 to repair the old organ. However, by the time of the second campaign, studies by the Organ Committee had revealed that it was not advisable to rebuild or repair the organ. Consequently, it was decided not to do anything about the organ until the way became clear to purchase a new one.

On the Sunday after Christmas, when Mr. McConnell announced that the campaign had been successfully concluded, he also announced that one family in the church had indicated to him a desire to donate a new pipe organ to the church. Although at that time the name of the donor of the organ was not made public, it was later revealed that Mr. McConnell, together with his mother and father were to be the benefactors of the church.

During the next few weeks, Mr. McConnell and the Organ Committee made some thorough investigations of all types of pipe organs available, and in late January 1952, a contract with M. P. Moller, Inc., was signed by the Board of Trustees, calling for the installation of a new Moller Pipe Organ. However, the representative of the Moller Company informed the trustees that the organ could not be delivered in less than twenty months, so the third phase of the total program had to be delayed one year.

In the fall of 1952, a third financial canvass was conducted, the goal of which was \$20,000. This was to cover the cost of the new roof, the remodeling of the choir loft, and our share of the Presbyterian Church's \$12,000,000 Building Funds Campaign. This brought the cost of our repair and remodel-

ing program up to \$100,000.00, exclusive of the new organ.

In the winter of 1951-52, it was discovered that the repairs which had been done on the roof earlier were not sufficient, and that it would be necessary to put a new roof on the entire building. Mr. Robert Mast was employed by the Trustees to put on a new asbestos shingle roof. Mr. Mast made plans whereby part of the work would be done during the summer of 1952, and the balance in 1953. By the middle of August 1953, the entire roof, except for the east tower and a relatively small flat area on the west side of the church, had been completed. Close inspection revealed that the roof on these two areas was satisfactory.

On the Monday after Easter, April 6, 1953, the final phase of the repair program was started. Within a few days the old organ which had served the

First Presbyterian Church of Urbana since 1869 was dismantled.

During the following five months, the program first conceived in 1949 was completed. The room that houses the organ was revamped in such a manner to make a suitable home for the new instrument soon to be installed therein. A galvanized roof was attached to the old ceiling; a new ceiling was then built in, space being left between the roof and ceiling in order to prevent vibration; sheets of masonite were attached to the old walls, and a completely new floor was laid.

The old circular platform on which the pulpit and choir loft were located was removed, and a new one was built. The chandelier and wall brackets were replaced with a new system of indirect wall brackets and

recessed ceiling lights.

Early in July, workmen from the Thomas Quinn Company of Lima started the job of painting the church. At the request of Mr. Richard Berry and his committee which was in charge of decorating the church, the Trustees authorized Mr. David Rittenhouse to work with Mr. John Becktel. the foreman of the job, in selecting the color.

Even before the painters had entirely finished, the new organ arrived. By the middle of September, the organ, the new grille and panel woodwork within the arch, the new choir railing, and the new choir pews had been installed.

During the summer, the church office was remodeled and redecorated. A book shelf partition was built in, dividing the old room in such a way as to give the pastor a private office, and another office for the church secretary. All the pews in the church were repaired and reinforced by supports placed beneath them. The floor of the church, which had begun to sink in certain places, was jacked up and new concrete block foundations placed beneath some of the posts which had started to decay. The pews were also refinished. The old pulpit and communion table mentioned in a previous chapter were refinished to match the new woodwork. Thus a reminder of the old was kept with the new.

Services were resumed in the church on Sunday, September 13, 1953. A large congregation was present, and everyone was pleased with the results.

After the organ was installed, a memorial plaque was placed on the console. It reads as follows:

In Memory of George McConnell Presented by Ida S. McConnell Robert S. McConnell

The specifications of the organ are as follows:

| SWEL | LL ORGAN | GRE | AT ORGAN |
|-------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Rohrbourdon | 8' | Diapason |
| 8' I | Rohrgedeckt | 8' | Melodia |
| | Gambe | 8' | Dulciana |
| 8′ (| Gambe Celeste T. C. | 4' | Octave |
| 4' T | Principal | 4' | Spitz Flute |
| | Flute Triangulaire | $2\frac{2}{3}$ | Twelfth |
| 4' (| Gambette | 2' | Fifteenth |
| 2¾′ I | Flute Twelfth | | Chimes |
| 2' I | Flautino | | Tremulo |
| | Γrumpet | | |
| | Clarion | PED | AL ORGAN |
| (| One blank | 16' | Bourdon |
| | Γremulo | 16' | Lieblich Gedeckt |
| | Chimes | 8' | Octave |
| | | 8′ | Bourdon |
| | | 8' 8' | Gedeckt |
| | | 4' | Super Octave |
| | | | |

The following is a list of the chairmen of the various committees of the Church Building Council: Finance Committee, Mr. Robert McConnell; Christian Education Committee, Mrs. Donald Gibbs; Parlor, Kitchen and Dining Room Committee, Mrs. Karl Durnell; Plans and Construction Committee, Mr. Vance Brand; Fellowship and Recreation Committee, Mrs. John



This picture showing the choir loft and new organ was taken the night of the Dedicatory Organ Recital, October 7, 1953.

Sommers, Jr.; Publicity and Promotion Committee, Mr. D. D. Dowds; Memorials Committee, Mr. H. B. Lichti; Worship Committee, Mr. Richard Berry; Organ Committee, Mr. Clifford Wagner; Repairs Committee, Mr. Jack McKeever; Committee on Decorations, Mr. David Rittenhouse.

Mr. and Mrs. John Siegle, who have performed the duties of Financial Secretary of the church for many years, rendered valuable service in han-

dling the funds for the Repair and Remodeling Program.

THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL AND DEDICATION SERVICES

In special services held during the week of October 4-11, 1953, the Presbyterians of Urbana celebrated two significant occasions in the life of their church.

The activities of the week were begun with the World Wide Communion Service on Sunday, October 4th. At this service 13 new members were received, bringing the total membership to 587, the highest it has been during the present pastorate. It was observed that during the present pastorate 417

new members had been received into the fellowship of the church.

On Monday, October 5th, members of the Men's Breakfast Club of this church were hosts to the Presbytery Council of Presbyterian Men of Marion Presbytery for a Moderator's dinner. Dr. John A. Mackay, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and President of the Princeton Theological Seminary, was guest of honor. Following the dinner, Dr. Mackay spoke briefly on the work of the National Council of Presbyterian Men and the importance of laymen in the program of the church.

At a public meeting on the same evening, Dr. Mackay delivered an address to an audience consisting of representatives from most of the churches of the Marion Presbytery and several people from various churches of the Columbus and Dayton Presbyteries. It was observed that this was the first time the Moderator of the General Assembly had ever visited Urbana, and that only once or twice within the memory of those present, had the

Moderator been in Marion Presbytery.

In addition to Dr. Mackay, several out of town dignitaries of the Presbyterian Church were present. They were: the Rev. Dr. John Paul Vincent, Executive of the Synod of Ohio; the Rev. Dr. Harry Roach, Field Representative of the Board of Christian Education for the Synod of Ohio; the Rev. Mr. Henry M. Tenney, Moderator of the Presbytery of Marion; the Rev. Mr. Ivan L. Wilkins, General Presbyter for the Marion, Columbus, and Zanesville Presbyteries; and the Rev. Mr. John Miller, Executive Secretary of the Westminster Foundations of Ohio.

On Tuesday, October 6th, the Women's Federation entertained guests from some of the other churches of the Presbytery of Marion. Mrs. Frederick Christian, wife of the pastor of the Indianola Presbyterian Church of Colum-

bus, spoke on "Spanish Speaking Americans."

On Wednesday evening, October 7th, the choir of this church presented Professor Wilbur Held, head of the Organ Department of Ohio State University in a dedicatory organ recital, which was well received by a large audience.

The program played by Mr. Held was as follows:

| Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadows | Bach |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Toccata and Fugue in D Minor | Bach |
| Allegro (Trio Sonata V) | Bach |
| Now Thank We All Our God | Karg-Elert |
| Clair de Lune | 77 771 1 |
| Scherzetto | ¥ 70 |
| Chorale in A Minor | Franck |

On Thursday evening there was an informal reception in honor of the sons and daughters of Champaign County Presbyterianism who have entered the missionary service or the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, and the former pastors of the Urbana Church. The guests of honor present were: Dr. Harry W. Barr, pastor of the Urbana Church from 1919 until 1941; Dr. Charles Pindar, son of the church, and Superintendent of the Unit of City and Industrial Work for the Synod of Ohio; and Miss Nettie Rupert, missionary to Japan from 1913 until 1940, now an active member of this church. The pastor spoke of receiving messages of congratulations and best wishes for this occasion from the following: Dr. Frank Reber, pastor from 1902 until 1908; Dr. Charles A. Hunter, interim pastor from 1943 until 1946; Dr. Robert Tignor, son of the church, and now pastor at Yeadon, Pennsylvania; and the Rev. Mr. Donald Doss, son of the church, and pastor at Newcomerstown. Ohio. A message was received also from Mrs. Robert Donaldson, widow of the pastor of the Urbana Church from 1898 until 1902. The guests of honor spoke of their relationships with the church, and the pastor spoke of other sons of the church, i.e., Dr. James S. McDonald, Dr. J. S. Todd, and Dr. William Houston. A wonderful spirit prevailed at the meeting. Following this informal program, refreshments were served and all present enjoyed a time of good fellowship.

At the hour of morning worship on Sunday, October 11th, sesquicentennial and dedication services were held. Dr. John Paul Vincent, newly elected executive of the Synod of Ohio, preached on the subject, "A Mission to Fulfill." Mr. McConnell, speaking for himself and his mother, presented to the church the new fifteen rank Moller Pipe Organ, in memory of his father, George McConnell, who was a member of this church from 1891 until the time of his death, April 25, 1953.

The pastor then led the congregation in the following dedication service:

Minister: To the cultivation of high art; to the interpretation of the message of the masters of music; to the appreciation of the great doxologies of the church, and to the development of the language of praise that belongeth to heaven and earth —

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: To the wedding march, to thanksgiving on festal occasions, and to the service of song that all people may praise God —

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: To the healing of life's discords, and the revealing of the hidden soul of harmony; to the lifting of the depressed and the comforting of the sorrowing; to the humbling of the heart before the eternal mysteries and the lifting of the soul to abiding beauty and joy by the gospel of infinite love and good will —

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: To the loving memory of Mr. George McConnell, devoted servant of Christ, faithful member, generous supporter, elder, and deacon of this church —

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, I hereby declare this organ dedicated to the objectives here stated, and to the Christian idealism which they promote. Amen.

The pastor then read the following announcement of other memorials received during the remodeling program:

"The altar and lectern in the Junior Chapel were given in memory of Mrs. H. B. Lichti, by members of her family. For many years, prior to her death, August 3, 1949, Mrs. Lichti was active in the Church School and Missionary Society. Mr. Lichti served as an elder from 1913 until 1949, and was Clerk of the Session from 1936 until 1945.

"In memory of his wife, Caroline, Mr. Harry B. Conyers gave a memorial gift to be applied to the cost of the church parlor. In recognition of this gift, and of Mrs. Conyers' long and faithful service to the church, the Session has designated the church parlor as the Caroline Conyers Guild Room.

"The furnishings in the Caroline Conyers Guild Room were presented in memory of Miss Leah McDonald.

"A memorial fund bequeathed to the Caroline Conyers Guild by the late Miss Lillian Barnett was used by the Guild to help purchase a spinet piano, which was presented in honor of Mrs. Laura Ewing and her late sister, Miss Lillian Barnett.

"The organ screen, consisting of the grille and panel-work in the arch, back of the choir, were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Evans Rock in memory of William Warren Rock, who was a member of this church from January 19, 1891 until his death, June 21, 1952.

"A new Pulpit Bible is being presented by Mr. and Mrs. Ward

Howard, in memory of Mr. George McConnell."

"In memory of Mr. George McConnell, a number of new Hymnals were presented by Mr. James S. Ficklen, Mr. James S. Ficklen, Jr., and Mr. Lewis Stuart Ficklen, of Greenville, North Carolina.

"A new Christian and a new American Flag were presented by the Semper Fidelis Class."

The above is a list of the memorial gifts in the order in which they were received by the church.

A most impressive part of the service was the singing by the congregation of the hymn, "Blest is the Day When in Thy House We Meet," (see page 29) the words of which were written by Dr. Robert M. Donaldson, and which were sung at Dr. Donaldson's installation as pastor here, October 20, 1898, and again at the dedication of this church, May 5, 1902.

Following the singing of this hymn, the pastor offered the following

prayer of dedication:

"Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, though Thou are most holy and most high and altogether righteous, we thank Thee that we have access to

Thee by one Spirit through Jesus Christ.

"We would give unto Thee, as Thou are worthy to receive, the utmost we can render of power and riches and might and honor and glory and thanksgiving. "We bless Thee for this Thy church in this place and for the sesquicentennial celebration of which this act is a part. We thank Thee that through these 150 years the Presbyterian Church has been privileged to witness in this community for Thee, and that Thou hast been pleased to use it as an instrument through which the power of Thy Gospel has reached into and influenced the lives of men.

"We thank Thee for all this church has meant to Thy people. It has been a place of silence, of joy, and of song; a place of inspiration and defense where we have found rest of soul and quiet of mind; a place of refuge in time of peril, a shelter in the time of storm, of shade amid the heat of day; a place of prospect from where we have looked out beyond the horizons of

time and have seen the happier land and better day that is to be.

"We would honor all those who have stood at this place and in the pulpits of all Thy churches of this community, especially those pioneers of yesteryear who braved the dangers and loneliness of a wilderness country to bear testimony of Thyself. We thank Thee for all those who have helped to guide the destinies of Thy church, the elders, the deacons, the trustees, all those who have gone from here to serve Thee in places far and near. But we would pay no less homage to those who have taught our youth, to those who have built the houses of worship, those who have kept them clean and comfortable, to those who have played the instruments of praise and those who have sung to Thy glory, all those, great and small, who have loved and served Thee in this place all through these years.

"As Thou didst lead our fathers to this place and didst enable them to establish Thy church here, Thou hast put it into the minds of Thy people,

today, to beautify Thy house and to strengthen Thy church.

"Be Thou present with us today as we dedicate this organ and each of these special gifts presented to Thy church by Thy people, and as we rededicate this house to Thy glory, separating it from all unhallowed and common uses. We pray that Thou wouldst receive not only these gifts, but the sacrifice of even the unhonored and the unsung that Thy house may be a habitation of Thy glory. Accept the sacrifice and service which Thy people have rendered unto Thee that they might be able to add to Thy house all these evidences of their love and devotion to Thee and Thy church. May we more fervently sing Thy praises and more worthily worship Thee in the beauty of holiness.

"As Thou didst move Thy people to do these things, grant that all those who now and hereafter enjoy the benefits of this good work may serve Thee with gladness and show forth Thy praise in triumphant song. Let Thy glory

will this house and Thy spirit dwell in the hearts of Thy people.

"As we honor those of yesterday and today, who have made possible this that we enjoy, we would also look forward to the future. We pray for a double portion of the spirit with which our fathers were imbued, that we, their children, may hand on to those who come after us, a heritage even more noble than that which we have received. Amen."

In the afternoon the congregation made a pilgrimage to the site of the old Buck Creek Church. There on the grounds on which the parent church of Champaign County Presbyterianism was reorganized in 1811, and on which stood a house of worship from 1813 until 1919, a picnic potluck lunch was served to more than 150 people.

The final service of the week was held on this site in mid-afternoon of a glorious October day. The weather was warm enough that men were comfortable in their shirt sleeves. As he preached the sermon in the out-of-doors, Dr. Harry W. Barr stood on the site of the entrance to historic Buck Creek Church.

As the Presbyterians of Champaign County left this sacred spot, there was a deep appreciation for a glorious heritage and a renewed dedication to the task of the church in a mighty future.

CLERKS OF THE SESSION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Urbana, Ohio

The minutes of the Session from 1833 until 1847 contain the names of elders present at the meetings, but are not signed, so it is impossible to determine who were the clerks during that period. Below is a list of those who served as the regular Clerk of the Session. No attempt has been made to name all those who served as clerk, pro-tem.

| M. Magrew | 184? |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| D TL M:11 | 1848-1852 |
| M. Mandana | 1852 |
| | 1854 |
| Al- I- Cr - r | 1854-1861 |
| Stillman Emerson | 1862-1865 |
| Rev. John Woods | 1865-1867 |
| A. F. Vance | 1007 1070 |
| Rev. J. A. P. McGaw | 1870-1873 |
| O E I | September 1873-June 4, 1880 |
| O. N. Gibbons | June 1880-February 6, 1882 |
| D. W. Todd |) |
| R. H. Boal | 1885 |
| R. E. Gross | September 5, 1885-February 11, 1890 |
| C. T. Jamieson | E-February 16, 1890-December 2, 1891 |
| Leander Marmon | December 2, 1891-June 5, 1929 |
| J. Carr Robison | June 5, 1929-May 10, 1933 |
| George J. Hurd | May 10. 1933-May 17, 1936 |
| H. B. Lichti | May 17, 1936-April 22, 1945 |
| George J. Hurd | January 6, 1952 |
| F. Earl Wilson | April 22, 1945-January 6, 1952 |
| George J. Hurd | January 6, 1952- |

LIST OF ELDERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

URBANA, OHIO

1833 to 1953

Compiled from Church Records

| | NAMES OF ELDERS | DATES ELECTED |
|-----|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Alexander Taylor | Spring of 1833 |
| | William Ward | |
| | Mathew Magrew | |
| 4. | Hugh McDonald | Spring of 1833 |
| 5. | James C. Smith | Sept. 1, 1842-'81-'84-'87 |
| 6. | Alexander Stuart | _Sept. 1, 1842 |
| 7. | James Simpson | _June 16, 1850 |
| 8. | Duncan McDonald | April 4, 1859-'81-'84-'87-'90 |
| 9. | Stillman Emerson | _April 4, 1859 |
| 10. | John Greenlee | _April 4, 1859 |
| 11. | James H. Kenton | _June 28, 1862 |
| 12. | George D. G. Moore | _June 28, 1862 |
| | A. F. Vance, Sr. | |
| | | May 15, 1865-'81-'84-'87-'90-'93-'96 |
| | David H. Hovey | |
| | Charles A. McClintock | |
| | O. E. Lewis | |
| | James L. McLain | |
| | George A. Weaver | |
| 20. | Charles A. Duncan | Dec. 5, 1874-'81-'86 |
| | T. H. B. Beale | |
| | | _Jan. 1, 1881-'82-'85-'88-'91-'94-'97-1900 |
| | Robert E. Gross | · · |
| | Orasmus N. Gibbons | |
| | D. W. Todd | |
| | W. S. Garrett | |
| 27. | John Duncan | _Jan. 11, 1883-'86-'89-'92-'95-'98-'01-'04- '07-'10-'13-'16-'19 |
| | R. H. Boal | |
| | | _Jan. 3, 1887-'89-'92-'95-'98-'01-'04-'07- '10-'13-'16-'19-'22-'23-'26-'29 |
| 30. | William Carson (1 Year) | Jan. 3, 1887 |
| | William E. Hall | |
| | Charles T. Jamieson | |
| 33. | Alexander Duncan | Jan. 7, 1889-'90-'03-'06-'09-'12-'15-'18- '21-'25 |

| NAMES OF ELDERS | DATES ELECTED |
|--------------------------|---|
| 34. Samuel Stone | Mar. 2, 1890 |
| 35. John W. Ogden | Ian. 4, 1892-'93-'96-'99 |
| 36. Frederick H. Wood | Jan. 2, 1893-'96-'99-'02-'05-'08-'11-'14- |
| | '17-'20-'25-'29-'32-'35 |
| 37. Louis H. Wood | Jan. 8, 1894-'97 |
| | Jan. 11, 1898-'01-'04-'07-'10-'13-'16 |
| 39. Thomas S. Binkard | Jan. 22, 1899-'00-'03-'06-'09-'13 |
| 40. Thomas O. Ward | Jan. 14, 1903-'06 |
| 41. James S. Robison | Jan. 14, 1903-'05-'08-'11-'14-'17-'20 |
| 42. Clayton E. French | Jan. 13, 1908-'09-'12-'15-'18-'21 |
| 43. Clarence A. Coon | Jan. 21, 1912-'15-'18-'21 |
| 44. Harry B. Conyers | Jan. 29, 1913-'15-'18-'21-'27-'31-'36-'41 |
| | 1945 |
| 45. Herman B. Lichti | Jan. 29, 1913-'14-'17-'20-'25-'29-'33-'36 |
| | '39-'42-'46 |
| 46. Lee G. Pennock | |
| 47. James H. McCroskey | |
| 48. William S. Given | |
| 49. Oscar E. Eby | |
| 50. George Pearl Seibert | |
| 51. Charles A. Leaming | |
| | Jan. 30, 1916-'17-'20-'24-'28-'31-'34-'37 |
| 53. John H. Swimley | |
| 54. Robert C. Robison | |
| 55. Charles B. Hatton | |
| 56. C. E. Yoder | |
| 57. J. Carr Robison | |
| 58. Joseph E. Brand | |
| 59. Edward K. Humes | |
| 60. George McConnell | |
| 61. Edgar M. Crane | |
| | Apr. 13, 1924-'26-'30-'38-'41-'45-'49 |
| 63. Harry Tullis | |
| | Apr. 18, 1926-'30-'34-'38-'42-'46-'50 |
| 65. R. C. Park | |
| 66. Carey G. Glessner | |
| 67. H. Percy Creighton | |
| 68. Roy H. Ross | |
| 69. Harry H. Banta | |
| 70. Lyman A. Thomas | |
| 71. Edward H. Brandes | Apr. 12, 1931-'35-'39-'43 |

| | | NAMES OF ELDERS | DATES ELECTED |
|---|-----|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 72. | George J. Hurd | Apr. 9, 1933-'37-'40-'44-'48-'52 |
| | 73. | F. Earl Wilson | Apr. 9, 1933-'37-'41-'45-'49-'53 |
| 1 | 74. | John T. Sommers, Sr. | Apr. 13, 1935-'39-'44-'48-'53 |
| • | 75. | Fred Freyhoff | Apr. 13, 1935 |
| 1 | 76. | M. J. Hickman | Apr. 17, 1938, '43 |
| | 77. | L. L. Harner | Apr. 16, 1939-'44-'48-'52 |
| 1 | 78. | Lester Payton | Apr. 16, 1941-'46-'50 |
| | 79. | George McPherson | Apr. 19, 1942 |
| , | 80. | D. D. Dowds | Apr. 11, 1943-'47-'51 |
| , | 81. | Ward Howard | Apr. 23, 1944 |
| - | 82. | Chauncey Glessner | Apr. 13, 1947-'51 |
| | 83. | John W. Holmes | Apr. 13, 1947-'51 |
| | 84. | Richard H. Berry | Jan. 11, 1948-'51 |
| | 85. | Phillip Gifford | Jan. 16, 1949-'53 |
| | 86. | Wilbur Pence | Jan. 16, 1949 |
| | 87. | John T. Sommers, Jr. | Jan. 22, 1950 |
| | 88. | Russell Caldwell | Jan. 13, 1952 |
| | 89. | Melvin Shafer | Jan. 13, 1952 |
| | 90. | Walter Moore | Jan. 11, 1953 |
| | | | |

LIST OF DEACONS OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

URBANA, OHIO

1833 to 1953, as compiled from Church Records

| | NAMES OF DEACONS | DATES ELECTED |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Duncan McDonald | Jul. 21, 1833 |
| | Charles Flago | |
| | William Smith | |
| | Douglas Luce | |
| | Lemuel Weaver | |
| | Mathew Magrew | |
| | James C. Smith | |
| | Stillman Emmerson | |
| | David C. Jamieson | |
| 10. | Thomas H. Berry | Jun. 1, 1855 |
| | G. W. Neely | |
| 12. | Griffith Ellis | Jan. 24, 1858 |
| 13. | John D. Rock | Apr. 8, 1860 |
| 14. | William W. Helmick | Apr. 8, 1860 |
| 15. | David H. Hovey | Apr. 8, 1860 |
| 16. | E. L. Small | Apr. 8, 1860 |
| 17. | Thomas Bell | Apr. 8, 1860 |
| 18. | Marcus H. Crane | Sept. 30, 1868-'71-'85-'87-'89-'92-'95 '98-'01-'04-'07 |
| 19. | Stephen Payne | Sept. 30, 1868 |
| | W. H. Colwell | |
| 21. | S. L. Robinson | Mar. 19, 1871 |
| 22. | Stephen Grove | Mar. 19, 1871 |
| | A. F. Vance, Jr. | |
| 24. | R. H. Boal | Mar. 19, 1871 |
| 25. | C. F. Jamieson | Jan. 5, 1885-'87 |
| 26. | David W. Todd | Jan. 5, 1885-'87-'89-'92 |
| 27. | Chauncey F. Glessner | Jan. 5, 1885-'87-'90-'93-'96-'99 |
| | (Rotation system adopted Jan. 3 | , 1887). |
| 28. | Thomas McConnell | Jan. 3, 1887-'88-'91 |
| | | Jan. 3, 1887-'91-'94-'97-'00-'03-'06 |
| | John H. P. Stone | |
| 31. | L. H. Wood | Jan. 2, 1893 |
| 32. | Duncan B. McDonald | Jan. 8, 1894-'97-'00-'03-'06-'09 |
| 33. | R. N. Rannells | Jan. 8, 1894 |
| 34. | Horace M. Hubbell | Apr. 18, 1894-'95-'98-'01-'04 |

| | NAMES OF DEACONS | DATES ELECTED |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 35. | William E. Berry | Jan. 20, 1901-'02-'05-'08-'11-'14-'17-'20 |
| 36. | George McConnell | Jan. 26, 1902-'08-'10-'13-'16-'19-'20-'21- |
| | | '28-'32 |
| 37. | Charles Leaming | _Jan. 29, 1905-'08-'11 |
| | Frederick E. Phelps | |
| | Harry B. Conyers | |
| | Edgar M. Crane | |
| 41. | George H. McCracken | Jan. 16, 1910-'13-'16-'19-'20-'21 |
| 42. | William E. Hyatt | Jan. 16, 1910-'12-'15-'18-'23-'27 |
| 43. | William W. Rock | Jan. 23, 1910-'12-'15-'18-'20-'27-'42 |
| 44. | Daniel J. Hull | _Jan. 22, 1911-'14-'17-'23 |
| | Charles H. Duncan | |
| | George Pearl Seibert | |
| | Oscar E. Eby | |
| 48. | Charles B. Hatton | Jan. 29, 1913-'16-'19 |
| | James H. McCroskey | |
| 50. | Lee G. Pennock | _Jan. 25, 1914-'17-'20-'21-'30 |
| 51. | William A. Woodward | _Jan. 25, 1914-'15-'18-'20-'22 |
| 52. | Carey Glessner | _Jan. 24, 1915-'18 |
| 53. | J. M. Sidders | _Jan. 14, 1917 |
| 54. | J. Carr Robison | _May 23, 1920-'22 |
| 55. | Homer K. Humes | _Apr. 9, 1922-'23-'27-'31 |
| 56. | Robert Earl Humphreys | _Apr. 13, 1924-'29 |
| 57. | Ward R. Howard | Apr. 13, 1924-'28-'32-'36-'40 |
| 58. | E. H. Brandes | _Apr. 13, 1924 |
| 59. | Loran L. Harner | _Apr. 19, 1925 |
| 60. | Evans M. Rock | Apr. 19, 1925 |
| 61. | H. Percy Creighton | _Apr. 18, 1926 |
| 62. | William M. Valentine | _Apr. 18, 1926-'30 |
| | Frank Ganson | |
| | Ernest L. Doss | |
| 65. | J. E. Brand | _Apr. 13, 1930-'41-'45 |
| 66. | John Cunningham | _Apr. 1931 |
| 67. | John H. Siegle | _Apr. 9, 1933-'37-'44 |
| 68. | Robert M. Humphreys | _Apr. 9, 1933-'37-'41-'45-'49 |
| 69. | Dalton D. Dowds | _Apr. 9, 1933-'38 |
| 70. | M. J. Hickman | _Apr. 15, 1934 |
| 71. | Robert S. McConnell | _Apr. 13, 1935-'39-'42-'46-'51 |
| 72. | J. R. Horton | _Apr. 13, 1935 |
| 73. | Richard H. Berry | _Apr. 19, 1936-'41-'44 |
| 74. | Vance Brand | _Apr. 19, 1936-'40-'48 |
| | | |

| 75. | Fred Kemp | _Apr. 17, 1938 |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|
| 76. | R. M. McCoid | Apr. 16, 1939 |
| 77. | Gene Payton | _Apr. 16, 1939 |
| 78. | Donald Gibbs | _Apr. 19, 1942 |
| 79. | Russell Caldwell | _Apr. 11, 1943-'48 |
| 80. | George Page | _Apr. 11, 1943 |
| 81. | John T. Sommers, Jr. | _Apr. 22, 1945 |
| 82. | Wilbur Pence | _Apr. 28, 1946 |
| 83. | Walter Moore | _Apr. 13, 1947 |
| 84. | Clifford R. Wagner | Apr. 13, 1947-'51 |
| 85. | Melvin Shafer | _Jan. 11, 1948 |
| 86. | Thomas M. Stith | _Jan. 5, 1949 |
| 87. | Lewis Moore | _Jan. 8, 1950 |
| 88. | Harmon Yoder | _Jan. 8, 1950 |
| 89. | Donald C. Baker | _Jan. 7, 1951 |
| | D 1.(D | 11 D 1 CE . I E 10F1 |

NAMES OF DEACONS DATES ELECTED

Board of Deacons consolidated with Board of Trustees, January 7, 1951.

LIST OF TRUSTEES OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH URBANA, OHIO

1872-1953, as compiled from Church Records

No record of Trustees before 1872

| | NAMES OF TRUSTEES | DATES ELECTED |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| | 1. James C. Smith | Ian. 2, 1872-'76-'79 |
| | | Jan. 2, 1872-'75-'78-'82-'85-'88-'91 |
| | 3. Thomas H. Berry | |
| | | Jan. 12, 1880-'83-'86-'89-'92-'95-'98-'01- |
| - | | '04-'07-'10-'13-'16-'19 |
| | 5. D. W. Todd | Jan. 3, 1882- |
| | 6. M. H. Crane | Jan. 16, 1884-'87-'90 |
| | 7. George A. Weaver | Jan. 2, 1893-'96 |
| | 8. Augustus Glessner | Jan. 8, 1894-'97-'00-'03-'06-'09-'12-'15 |
| | 9. William S. Given | Jan. 9, 1899-'02-'05-'08-'11 |
| | 10. Lou B. Berry | Jan. 12, 1914-'17-'20 |
| | 11. Augustus M. Glessner, Jr. | Jan. 10, 1917-'18-'21 |
| | 12. Fredrick E. Phelps | Apr. 20, 1921-'22 |
| | 13. Earl Humphreys | Apr. 11, 1923 |
| | 14. Frank Ganson | Apr. 9, 1924 |
| | 15. Evans Rock | Apr. 9, 1924-'46 |
| | 16. Carey Glessner | |
| | 17. John Siegle | |
| | 18. Lyman A. Thomas | May 15, 1926 |
| | 19. John L. Woodburn | |
| | 20. James R. Todd | |
| | 21. Allen Robison | - |
| | 22. F. Earl Wilson | |
| | 23. John T. Sommers, Sr. | Apr. 13, 1932 |
| | 24. Robert Given | |
| | 25. Richard Berry | Apr. 11, 1934 |
| | 26. Fred Kemp | Apr. 9, 1935 |
| | 27. L. C. Payton | Apr. 15, 1936 |
| | 28. R. M. McCoid | Apr. 14, 1937 |
| | 29. George Page | Apr. 13, 1938 |
| | 30. Chauncey Glessner | Apr. 12, 1939 |
| | 31. W. W. Rock | Apr. 16, 1941 |
| | 32. John T. Sommers, Jr. | Apr. 8, 1942 |
| | 33. Keller Bell | Apr. 10, 1944 |
| | 34. J. R. Horton | Apr. 9, 1945 |
| | 35. Jack McKeever | Apr. 9, 1947 |
| | | |

| NAMES OF TRUSTEES | DATES ELECTED |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 36. Thomas M. Stith | Jan. 9, 1948 |
| 37. Donald Baker | Jan. 5, 1949-'51 |
| 38. Leon Tyler | Jan. 5, 1949 |
| 39. Robert N. Park | Jan. 8, 1950 |
| Consolidated with Board of De | acons Jan. 7, 1951. |
| 40. Dr. V. R. Frederick | Jan. 7, 1951 |
| 41. Clifford R. Wagner | Jan. 7, 1951 |
| 42. Robert McConnell | Jan. 7, 1951 (See Deacons) |
| 43. Howard Evans | Jan. 13, 1952 |
| 44. Albert Mapp | Jan. 13, 1952 |
| 45. Richard Stockton | Jan. 13, 1952 |
| 46. Robert M. Humphreys | Jan. 11, 1953 (See Deacons) |
| 47. Harry Cowden | Jan. 11, 1953 |
| 48. Lawrence Detwiler | Jan. 11, 1953 |
| | |

The Dedication

of the

Church School and Social Rooms

of the

First Presbyterian Church Urbana - Objo



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1952

Malcolm D. Hooken, Paston



To the Glory of God



Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

A Service of Dedication

INVOCATION AND THANKSGIVING The Rev. Ivan L. Wilkins

DINNER

REMARKS BY MASTER OF CEREMONIES Mr. Vance Brand

INTRODUCTIONS

The Rev. Malcolm D. Hooker

PRESENTATION OF CHURCH SCHOOL

AND SOCIAL ROOMS

Mr. Robert S. McConnell

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE Mr. Harry Cowden

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

Minister: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be unto our God forever and

ever.

BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD WHO DOETH WON-People:

DROUS THINGS: AND BLESSED BE HIS GLORIOUS NAME FOREVER AND LET THE WHOLE EARTH

BE FILLED WITH HIS GLORY.

Being graciously prospered by the hand of God to finish Minister:

the work which in His providence we are called upon to

perform.

WE DO NOW WITH JOY AND GRATITUDE, SOL-People:

EMNLY DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

To the glory of God the Father, to the honor of our Lord Minister:

and Saviour Jesus Christ, to the praise of the Holy Spirit,

source of light and life.

People: WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

To provide an appointed place where the souls of men Minister:

may quest for Truth, Beauty and Goodness.

WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS. People:

Minister: To make accessible an atmosphere where the act of wor-

ship may be learned and rehearsed.

People: WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

Minister: For the religious growth of our children; for the nurture

of our youth; for the enrichment of our homes.

People: WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

Minister: For the training of life in the Christian way that char-

acter may reflect the life of the Master.

People: WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

Minister: For the fellowship of kindred souls working together for

common purposes.

People: WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

Minister: For recreation which is in harmony with the hopes of

our homes and the ideals of the Founder of our Church.

People: WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

Minister: That we may have fellowship together in play, and work

and worship,

People: WE DEDICATE THESE ROOMS.

Minister and People: We now, the people of this church and con-

gregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, and remembering the sacrifice of our fathers, dedicate ourselves anew to the great task of the church as it is

committed to our hands in this place.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SOLO "Bless This House" Brahe

Becky Michaels

ADDRESS "Christian Education Today and Tomorrow"
Dr. Harry R. Roach

HYMN

"Rise Up, O Men of God"

Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things; Give heart and soul and strength, To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God! His Kingdom tarries long; Bring in the day of brotherhood And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God! The Church for you doth wait, Her strength unequal to her task; Rise up, and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod; As brothers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O men of God! Amen.

BENEDICTION



Participants in the Dedication Service

- The Rev. Herman A. Klahr, Synod Executive, Snyod of Ohio.
- The Rev. Harry A. Roach, Field Representative, Board of Christian Education for the Synod of Ohio.
- The Rev. Ivan L. Wilkins, General Presbyter of the Columbus, Marion and Zanesville Presbyteries.
- The Rev. Roger Sillars, Moderator of the Presbytery of Marion.
- The Rev. C. C. Bailey, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Marion.
- The Rev. Harry W. Barr, D. D., Superintendent of Ohio Presbyterian Homes; Pastor of this Church from 1919 to 1941.
- The Rev. Charles A. Hunter, D. D., Interim Pastor of this Church from 1943 to 1946.
- The Rev. Malcolm D. Hooker, Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Urbana, Ohio, since January 1942; served as Chaplain in World War II from May 1943 to May 1946.
- The Rev. Samuel Furrow, Representative of Urbana Ministerial Association.
- Mr. Vance Brand, Chairman of the Plans and Construction Committee of the Church Building Council.
- Mr. Robert S. McConnell, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Church Building Council.
- Mr. Harry Cowden, President of the Congregation.
- Mr. Ferdinand Freytag, Sidney, Ohio, Architect.
- Mr. Frank Courter, General Manager Ferguson Construction, General Contractor.
- Mr. William Benning, Superintendent of Construction.

The Story of This Church

Presbyterianism came to what is now Champaign County with the earliest settlers.

Preaching services by missionaries were held in cabins or in open groves as early as 1802.

The parent of Presbyterianism in this County, the Harmony Church, organized in 1811, consisted of two branches, one at Buck Creek and the other in Urbana.

The Urbana branch, under the leadership of the Reverend David Merrill, became a separate Church in 1833.

The building of the first house of worship was begun in 1828, but the edifice was wrecked by a tornado March 22, 1830, before it was fully completed. It was made of brick and stood on the northwest corner of North Main and West Court Streets.

The cornerstone of the present Church, the third on the present site, and the fourth to be erected by Urbana Presbyterians, was laid May 6, 1894.

The new Church School and Social Rooms which are being dedicated constitute the result of the program which was begun in January, 1949.

In January, 1950 after a study of the needs of the Church by the Elders, Deacons and Trustees, the Congregation adopted the program. The cost was subscribed by members of the Congregation during February and March 1950. In the spring of 1951, the contract for the reconstruction program was awarded.

Upon the completion of this program it was announced that one of the Church families wishes to donate a new organ for the Church.

Therefore, as we rejoice in the completion of this part of our task, we are eagerly anticipating the final phase of the total program, the installation of the organ and the redecoration of the Sanctuary.

It is the hope of the officers of the Church that the Dedication of the organ can coincide with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Presbyterianism in Champaign County.

In Appreciation

This Church wishes to express its deep and sincere appreciation to the hundreds of individuals — men, women and children — who through their gifts, prayers and personal labors have made possible these beautiful new Church School and Social Rooms, dedicated to the glory of God and to carrying out of God's purposes among men.

The Building Council, to which the special gratitude of the Church is extended, consisted of:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

| Mr. John T. Sommers, Sr. | Mr. George Hurd | Mrs. Lewis Earnhart |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Joe Brand | Mrs. Helen Kenton | Mrs. Marion Gregg |
| Mr. Donald Baker | Mr. John Siegle | Dr. John Poffenberger |
| Mr. Thomas Stith | Mr. Howard Evans | Mr. J. R. Horton |
| Mr. H. P. Creighton | Mr. Walter Stelzer | Mrs. Margaret Glessner |
| Mr. L. L. Harner | Mrs. Lewis Moore | Mr. Harry B. Conyers |
| Mrs. Gerald Smith | Mrs. L. D. Giffen | Mr. Robert Humphreys |

Mr. Robert McConnell, Chairman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

| Mrs. E. H. Brandes | Mrs. Sherman Woods | Mrs. Walter Moore |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Russell Caldwell | Mrs. Mary Thome | Mrs. Robert Saum |
| Mr. William Gillie | Mrs. Leland Giffen | Mrs. Ralph Mapp |
| Mrs. Chauncey Glessner | Mr. John T. Sommers, Jr. | Mrs. Richard Stockton |
| Mrs. Harry Booher | Mr. Kenneth Gladden | Mrs. Ralph McCoid |
| Mrs. John Poffenberger | Mr. Francis A. Nau | Miss Marjorie Blair |
| Mrs. Melvin Shafer | Mrs. Cecil Pfaff | Mrs. Merrill Taylor |
| 34' O . ' D !' | | |

Mrs. Donald Gibbs, Chairman

PARLOR, KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM COMMITTEE

| Mrs. Kenneth Gladden | Mrs. D. D. Dowds | Mrs. James Weymouth |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Richard Butcher | Mrs. John Holmes | Miss Christine Tullis |
| Mr. Robert Park | Miss Bertha Newton | Mr. Evans Rock |
| Mrs. Donald Baker | Mrs. Harmon Yoder | Mr. Hugh Mathewson |
| Mrs. R. T. Henderson | Mrs. Clifford Wagner | Mrs. John Poffenberger, |
| Mrs. Vance Brand | V | Jr. |

Mrs. Karl Durnell, Chairman

PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

| Mr. George McCrery | Mr. Lewis Moore | Mrs. John T. Sommers, |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. Donald Printz | Mr. Wilbur Pence | Šr. |
| Mr. Karl Durnell | Mr. Lawrence Little | Mrs. Harry F. Britton |
| Mr. Charles Bicking | Mr. Walter Moore | Mrs. V. R. Frederick |
| Mr. Russell Caldwell | Mrs. Joe Brand | Mrs. Howard Evans |
| Mr. Chauncey Clesener | | |

Mr. Vance Brand, Chairman

FELLOWSHIP AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

| 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Sherman Woods | Mr. Milburn Gambill | Mrs. Robert Park |
| Mrs. Hugh Matthewson | Mr. Richard Butcher | Mr. Donald Payton |
| Mrs. Carl Mattox | Mr. Harry Imel | Mrs. Franklin Buchanan |
| Mr. Cecil Pfaff | Mrs. Francis L. Mills | |

Mrs. John T. Sommers, Jr., Chairman

| PUBLICATY AND | PROMOTION | COMMITTEE |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|---------------|-----------|-----------|

| PUBLICE | TY AND PROMOTION CON | IMITTEE |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Harold Johnston | Mrs. Milburn Gambill | Mr. Donald Gibbs |
| | Mr. L. C. Payton | |
| Mr. James Weymouth | Mrs. Harry Cowden | Mrs. Richard Berry |
| Mr. Hugh Methewson | Mrs. Robert Humphreys | Mrs. Lawrence Detwiler |
| Mr. George Stelzer | Mrs. Robert Murphey | |
| | Mr. D. D. Dowds, Chairman | |
| | MEMORIALS COMMITTEE | |
| Mr. Herbert Everhart | Mrs. Raymond Smith | Mrs. H. H. Banta |
| 0 4 W 1 V | ar n n n l | N.C. IN Y. I.Y. |

Mrs. Besse Baker Mrs. D. L. Houser Mr. Frank Rupera Mr. Warren Rock Mr. Hugh Smith Mrs. George Hurd Mrs. R. R. Moses Mrs. Ralph Wilson Mrs. Dallas McCrery Mr. H. B. Lichti, Chairman

THE WODEHID COMMITTEE

| | THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|
| Mr. Harmon Yoder | Mrs. Lawrence Little | Mrs. | Clyde Wilkins |
| Mrs. Martha C. Clark | Mrs. Pauline Newhouse | Mrs. | George McConnell |
| Mrs. George Given | Mrs. Ward Howard | Mrs. | John Poffenberger. |
| Mrs. Ivan Williams | Mrs. George Schafer | | Jr. |
| | Mr. Richard Berry, Chairman | | · |

ORGAN COMMITTEE Mrs. Edna Page Mrs. Agnes Siegler

Mrs. Francis A. Nau Mrs. William Gillie Mrs. Joe Hitt Mrs. J. R. Horton Mr. Harry Cowden Mr. Earl Wilson Mrs. Herbert Everhart Mrs. Geneva Dimond

Mr. Clifford Wagner, Chairman

REPAIRS COMMITTEE Mr. Richard Stockton Mrs. Donald Printz Mrs. Harold White Mrs. Walter Stelzer Mr. Clyde Wilkins Mr. Melvin Shafer Mr. John Holmes Mr. Fred Kemp Dr. V. R. Frederick Mr. Leon Tyler Mr. William Harner Mrs. John Thomas, Sr. Mrs. Roy Carter Mrs. J. Carr Robison

> Mr. Jack McKeever, Chairman COMMITTEE ON DECORATIONS Mr. David Rittenhouse, Chairman

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH FOR 1952

THE SESSION

Malcolm D. Hocker, Moderator George J. Hurd, Clerk

| | J | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
| Mr. L. C. Payton | Mr. Richard Berry | Mr. L. L. Harner |
| Mr. H. P. Creighton | Mr. D. D. Dowds | Mr. George Hurd |
| Mr. Frank Rupert | Mr. Chauncey Glessner | Mr. Melvin Shafer |
| Mr. John Sommers, Ir. | Mr. John Holmes | Mr. Russell Caldwell |

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Harmon Yoder, Chairman Mr. Donald Baker, Secretary

| 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| . Mr. Lewis Moore | Mr. Donald Baker | Mr. Howard Evans |
| Mr. Harmon Yoder | Dr. V. R. Frederick | Mr. Albert Mapp |
| Mr. Robert Park | Mr. Robert S. McConnell | |
| | Mr. C. R. Wagner | |

PRESIDENT OF CONGREGATION Harry L. Cowden SECRETARY OF CONGREGATION Mrs. Harold Kenton, Sr.





THE CHOIR

Of

Che First Presbyterian Church

PRESENTS

WILBUR HELD

In an

Organ Dedicatory Recital

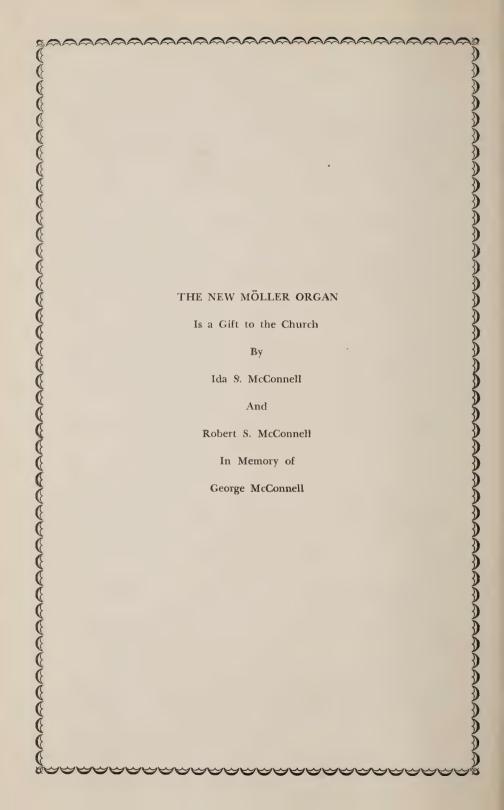
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8:15 P. M.

Wednesday, October 7, 1953 URBANA, OHIO Mr. Wilbur Held is head of the Organ Department at the Ohio State University where his radio broadcasts of the great organ masterpieces have brought him an ever-widening audience. He is also a well known church and concert organist. He received his organ training under Frank Van Dusen of Chicago, and Marcel Dupre and Andre Marchal of Paris. Mr. Held holds a master's degree from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists.

Che Program

| Now Rest beneath Night's Shadows | Bach |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Toccata and Fugue in D Minor | Bach |
| Allegro (Trio Sonata V) | Bach |
| | |
| | |
| Now Thank We All Our God | Karg - Elert |
| Clair de Lune | Karg-Elert |
| Scherzetto | Vierne |
| | |
| | |
| Chorale in A Minor | Franck |
| | |
| | |
| You Raise the Flute to your Lips | Delamarter |
| Comes Autumn Time | Sowerby |
| | |
| | |



The Sesqui-Centennial of Presbyterianism In Champaign County

1802-1953

Dedication of
The George McConnell Memorial Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH URBANA, OHIO

October Eleventh, Nineteen Hundred Fifty-three

MALCOLM D. HOOKER, Pastor

MR. DONALD GILBERT Choir Director MRS. FRANCIS A. NAU Organist

Order of Service

PRELUDE

"Grave and Allegro"

Rheinberger

(from the Fantasy-Sarata)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"How Firm A Foundation"

No. 283

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: This is none other than the house of the Lord; this is the gate of heaven.

People: Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.

People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable

in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

Eternal Cod, the sharer of our joys, regard us in compassion as we present ourselves before Thee. We thank Thee for this hallowed house where Thy children have worshipped and for the willing sacrifices they have suffered to add to it those things which make it possible to Worship the Lord in beauty and gladness. Be pleased. O Lord, to accept this service, dedicated to the glorious past, and may we find in it inspiration to face the mighty future. Be near to bless as we, in the Master's Name, pray, even as He taught His disciples, "Our Father, which are in heaven"

THE GLORIA PATRI

ORGAN MOMENTS

(Late arrivals may be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 136

Page 570

ANTHEM

"Praise the Lord"

Randegger

DEDICATION

of

THE GEORGE McCONNELL MEMORIAL ORGAN

Presentation of Organ, Mr. Robert S. McConnell

The Service of Dedication

Minister: To the cultivation of high art; to the interpretation of the message of

the masters of music; to the appreciation of the great doxologies of the church and to the development of the language of praise that belongeth

to heaven and earth-

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: To the wedding march, to thanksgiving on festal occasions, and to the

service of song that all people may praise God-

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: To the healing of life's discords, and the revealing of the hidden soul of

harmony; to the lifting of the depressed and the comforting of the sorrowing; to the humbling of the heart before the eternal mysteries and the lifting of the soul to abiding beauty and joy by the gospel of infinite

love and good will-

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: To the loving memory of Mr. George McConnell, devoted servant of Christ,

faithful member, generous supporter, Elder, and Deacon of this church-

People: We dedicate this organ.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, I hereby

declare this organ dedicated to the objectives here stated and to the

Christian idealism which they promote. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF OTHER MEMORIALS

HYMN OF CONSECRATION "Consecration Hymn" Tune No. 55

Blest is the day when in Thy house we meet;
Happy the hearts before Thy mercy seat;
Hallowed the place where Thou has heard our prayer;

Holy the Friendship,—If our Lord is there.

We love Thy Church, whose walls before Thee stand,

Whose names enrolled are graven on Thy hand, We seek Thy blessing, while we bow to Thee,—
God of our Fathers, in humility.

Help us to live as those who love the Lord.

Help us to feed upon Thy sacred Word.

Teach us the Truth that makes Thy people free;

Teach us the Truth that makes Thy people free Teach us to know and serve Thee perfectly.

Lead Thou this people all their journey thro' Be Thou our fire, and cloudy Pillar, too;

Our living Stream along the desert way, Our heavenly Manna, falling day by day.

May reverent faith forever with us dwell;
May fervent hope inspire us to excel;

May all in love and harmony agree,

And may we ever serve Thee fruitfully! Amen.

The words of this hymn were written by the Rev. Dr. Robert M. Donaldson. The hymn was sung at Dr. Donaldson's installation, October 20, 1898, and again, at the Dedication of the Church, May 4, 1902.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

THE OFFERTORY

"Offertoire"

Franck

THE DOXOLOGY

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

"I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes to the Hills" DUET

Harker

Soprano Janet Simpson Baritone Donald Gilbert

SERMON-"A Mission to Fulfill"

The Rev. Dr. John Paul Vincent Executive, Synod of Ohio

HYMN

"Rise Up, O Men of God"

No. 401

PASTORAL BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

"To God on High Be Praise" Bach

OTHER MEMORIAL GIFTS

The altar and lectern in the Junior Chapel were given in memory of Mrs. H. B. Lichti by members of her family.

In memory of his wife, Caroline, Mr. Harry B. Conyers gave a memorial gift to be applied to the cost of the church parlor. This room has been designated as the Caroline Convers Guild Room.

The furnishings in the Caroline Convers Guild Room were presented in memory of Miss Leah McDonald.

A memorial fund bequeathed to the Caroline Convers Guild by the late Miss Lillian Barnett was used by the Guild to help purchase a spinet piano which was presented in memory of Miss Lillian Barnett and her sister, Mrs. Laura Ewing.

The grill and panel-work in the arch back of the choir were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Evans Rock in memory of their families.

A new Pulpit Bible is being presented by Mr. and Mrs. Ward Howard in memory of Mr. George McConnell.







| DATE DUE | | | |
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| MAY 2 A 19 | | | |
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| GAYLORD | | | PRINTED IN U.S A. |



